

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Dollar: Prepare for
a crash
landing, Page 25

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World news Business summary

Portugal's President in talks on coalition

Portugal's President Antonio Ramalho Eanes last night expressed his concern at the "grave situation" created by the decision of the Social Democrats to quit the centre-left coalition.

After talks with Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares, President Eanes said that as soon as the split in the two-year old coalition became formal on June 13 - 24 hours after the country signs its EEC accession treaty - he would begin talks with the political parties in an attempt to find a solution.

The president has three options: asking Soares to form a minority government, appointing a presidential government or dissolving parliament and calling a snap election. News analysis, Page 26

Anti-apartheid move

The U.S. Congress moved significantly closer to imposing economic sanctions on South Africa, with the adoption of a series of anti-apartheid measures by the Senate foreign relations committee. They included a ban on all U.S. bank loans to the South African Government. Page 4

Craxi issues threat

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said he would resign next week if Italians approved in a referendum proposal sponsored by the opposition Communists, which seeks to reverse a wage curb imposed last year. Page 2

French squabble

The hopes of the French opposition parties of impressing public opinion with a display of their unity have been badly jolted by a fresh squabble among their leadership on the shape of future economic policy. Page 3

U.S. spy concern

U.S. officials, alarmed by an increase in spying, say they might cut back on the 43m Americans at present entrusted with defence secrets.

UK press code

The UK Press Council, the body which supervises press standards, says new regulations to cover the professional conduct of financial journalists would be undesirable. But it has produced a set of voluntary guidelines. Page 6

Olympic chief resigns

International Olympic Committee director Monique Berlioux announced her resignation, because of differing opinions with the executive board, after 10 years with the IOC.

Terrorist move

The Sri Lankan Government said it had decided to introduce laws to fight terrorism, possibly including the death penalty.

Paris factory clash

More than 40 people were injured when workers and riot police clashed at the Swedish-owned SKF factory outside Paris which was closed by the management.

Peasants kill rebels

Peruvian peasants hacked and stoned 15 Maoist guerrillas to death outside a village in the turbulent Andean province of Ayacucho. The peasants set upon the rebels after they killed two watchmen.

Last commune goes

The last of China's communes, the radical social experiment of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, have been abolished, marking victory for the policies of reformist leader Deng Xiaoping.

Tehran raid

Iran said two people were killed and five injured in a pre-dawn Iraqi raid on Tehran.

Warner may face takeover battle

WARNER Communications, U.S. film and entertainment group, faced the prospect of another takeover battle when its major shareholder, Chris-Craft, rejected management plans for a buyout and said it might make an offer for the company. Page 27

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 5.26 at 1,320.58. Section III

STERLING closed in New York at \$1.257. It declined in London, losing 2 cents against the dollar to \$1.257. It also fell to DM 3.86 (DM 3.8975). FFR 11.765 (FFR 11.885). SwFr 3.245 (SwFr 3.28) and Y313.75 (Y318.0).

The pound's exchange rate index fell 0.9 to 78.8. Page 47

DOLLAR closed in New York at DM 3.07. FFR 9.37, SwFr 2.58 and Y249.4. It made gains in London, rising to DM 3.072 (DM 3.054). FFR 9.385 (FFR 9.31). SwFr 2.585 (SwFr 2.569) and Y249.4 (Y249.1). On Bank of England figures the dollar's index rose to 145.4 from 144.8. Page 47

GOLD: In New York the Comex August settlement was \$318.45. It fell \$0.75 on the London bullion market to \$315.00. It was also lower in Zurich at \$314.75. Page 46

LONDON investors clipped back the prices of blue chip industrial stocks. The FT Ordinary share index was down 3.1 at 1,017.1. Gilt was easier. Section III

TOKYO: share prices advanced across the board. The Nikkei-Dow market average added 109.80 to 12,683.21. Section III

AUSTRALIAN share prices fell again following the release of the Federal Government's tax proposals. The All-Ordinaries share index was down 7.1 at 854.2. Section III

SOUTH AFRICA is expected to make a further cut in its interest rates. Gerhard De Kock, Governor of the Reserve Bank, said the central bank's discount rates will probably be cut by another percentage point.

SOVIET UNION is to spend \$100 million (820m) on a project to divert waters from Siberia to irrigate the plains of central Asia, using a 2,500 km long canal.

U.S. FINANCIAL market revolution is lowering credit standards and confidence in the system, Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers warned. Page 4

JAPAN's seven trust banks produced record earnings in the year to March, with combined pre-tax profits ahead 48.1 per cent, in contrast to the country's city and regional banks. Page 23

BANKAMERICA, which revealed on Tuesday that it might only break even in the current quarter, has had its credit ratings lowered by Standard & Poor's, the U.S. agency. Page 27

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM said Shell Petroleum, a principal holding company of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, has agreed to buy 50 per cent of Occidental's Colombia oil interests for about \$1bn, of which \$750m cash will be paid in closing.

ABBEE LIFE GROUP, Britain's second largest linked life company, made its debut on the market with a public offer of 435m shares (48.2 per cent of the equity) at a price of 180p a share. This valued the group at \$504m (\$840m), the largest UK share offer this year outside a Government sell-off. Page 9

WANG LABORATORIES, U.S. office equipment manufacturer, said it expects a loss for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1985 and was cutting its workforce by 5 per cent, or about 1,500 people. Page 27

AT&T, U.S. telecommunications group, is to buy near-total control of three of the five earth satellite communications stations it now owns jointly with Comsat and others.

TOSHIBA, Japanese diversified industrial and electronics group, lifted its net profits 48 per cent to a record ¥81.12m (\$845m) in the year to March on sales up 23.5 per cent to ¥3,342bn. Page 28

General Motors to pay \$5bn for Hughes Aircraft

BY TERRY DODSWORTH AND PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

GENERAL MOTORS, the world's largest car maker, emerged yesterday as the victor in a keenly contested sealed-bid auction for Hughes Aircraft, the U.S.'s premier electronics defence contractor, with a cash and paper offer valued at \$5bn.

The deal, described by Mr Roger Smith, GM's chairman, both as marking "a truly grand day for GM" and a move which will position the car maker "for the 21st century," represents a further major diversification for the Detroit company, which only last year paid \$2.5bn for EDS, the Texas-based data processing group.

Only a few years ago, analysts say that such a deal would automatically be ruled out by the U.S. anti-trust authorities on the grounds of GM's size - it is expected to have sales this year of \$100bn. But Mr Smith said yesterday that the company had "looked very carefully" at the anti-trust position, and did not expect any opposition.

Part of the reason that the U.S. Administration appears to be taking a more lenient view to such deals is its concern to improve the competitive position of the nation's car makers. Mr Smith alluded to these competitive pressures yesterday, emphasising that a key ele-

ment in the takeover was the ability of Hughes to aid GM in the use of electronics in both its cars and factories.

Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street investment bank which handled the auction for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Hughes Aircraft's owner, said it was the largest private transaction in history and the biggest non-oil deal ever.

It follows close on the heels of two other record-shattering mergers, the Allied-Signal deal last month, and the proposed takeover of Nabisco Brands by R.J. Reynolds earlier this week. Both of these were also worth close to \$5bn.

While Morgan Stanley repeatedly refused to identify the other bidders for Hughes, saying that the details of the auction were "confidential," GM beat Ford Motor and the Boeing Aerospace group to win the prized California-based electronics and defence company.

The results of the auction, held several weeks ago, had been delayed by the complexity of the offers. GM's successful bid comprises \$2.7bn in cash and 50m shares of a new common stock, specially issued for the transaction.

The issue of the new stock, which will be publicly quoted but have only limited voting rights, mirrors the

terms of last year's EDS acquisition and further establishes the precedent of a major publicly-quoted company having more than one class of common stock.

Under the terms of the agreement, GM said it will set up a separate, independent subsidiary to be known as GM Hughes Electronics (GMEH), into which it will inject its own substantial electronics interests, including its Delco electronics unit. Mr Smith emphasised yesterday that the current management of Hughes will be retained.

Hughes Aircraft was put on the market by the medical institute, originally set up in the 1950s by Mr Howard Hughes, the reclusive billionaire, reportedly as a tax shelter.

The group, once part of Hughes Tool, ranks as the nation's seventh largest defence contractor and had earnings last year of around \$250m. Its major Pentagon projects include missile systems, radars and other sophisticated electronic weapons.

It is also one of the leading satellite builders and active in NASA's space shuttle programme and President Reagan's star wars Strategic Defence Initiative.

GM plans Japanese joint venture, Page 5; GM takes a \$5m gamble, Page 24

London SE vote fails to endorse reform package

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

LONDON Stock Exchange members have failed to give sufficient support to a series of constitutional reforms proposed by the exchange's ruling council in one of the biggest upsets in the reform programme for the British securities market. But the members have voted in favour of a crucial reform which will permit international financial groups and other companies to buy full control of stockbrokers and stockjobbers.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the exchange, said last night that he was sad about the outcome of the vote for the constitutional reforms. He said that the vote had failed by a very small margin. The figures show that just 54 votes were needed to give Sir Nicholas and the stock exchange ruling council the support that it needed, in what was widely predicted by brokers and jobbers would be a "knife-edge election."

In a poll of all members yesterday, more than 2,900 of the 4,405 members cast their votes during the day. When the poll closed about 20 stock exchange staff counted the votes for more than two hours.

Two resolutions were voted on in the poll. The first - requiring a simple majority of the members voting - was designed to allow the market's ruling council to relax a rule which limits groups outside the stock exchange to 29.9 per cent shareholdings in stockbrokers and stockjobbers. Instead, outside groups will be able to control 100 per cent.

Some 3,248 voted in favour of that resolution, while 628 members voted against. The figure excludes eight spoiled ballot papers. The stock exchange, therefore, gained 82.67 per cent support for this vote.

Support for the second resolution would have let the stock exchange amend its main constitutional document to allow the ruling council to shift the eventual proprietorship of

the exchange from individual members to member firms.

The resolution also incorporated an ambitious scheme to create a market in the shares of the stock exchange itself, which could be freely traded. It was designed to compensate the members for the participation of big outside groups on the stock exchange. This resolution required a 75 per cent majority of those voting. It gained 73.64 per cent.

The returns for this resolution showed that 2,890 members voted for the proposal while 1,035 voted against. This excluded eight spoiled ballot papers.

Sir Nicholas said after the vote: "This means that not quite enough members supported the council's view that, in the long term, proprietorship of the stock exchange should be shifted to firms and that

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UK sets soft terms for \$63m S. Korea export finance deal

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER AND IAN RODGER IN LONDON

THE BRITISH Government has set up a subsidised export finance deal for a South Korean buyer that just scrapes under the net of OECD rules designed to control such subsidies.

The complicated deal, involving some \$63.5m worth of subsidised loans, has enabled Davy McKee, the engineering contracting group, to clinch a delayed contract worth nearly \$75m to build a second blast furnace for Pohang Iron and Steel (Posco).

Only around 6 per cent is being charged for the fixed-rate export finance, underwritten by Britain's export Credits Guarantee Department. This is nearly 4 percentage points less than the OECD currently allows.

Yet the deal was said last night to be "within OECD guidelines."

The case was described by officials as "very sensitive." This ap-

pears to be because ministers have been extremely critical recently of other countries' soft loans to help their exporters.

It is also because of the Koreans' refusal to accept government-to-government aid as a way of reducing the interest rate on this "commercial" deal.

It was said last night that Korea has been refusing aid for fear of stirring up trouble with the U.S. American steel makers protest loudly when subsidised plant is built in developing countries to make steel that will penetrate the U.S. market.

However, it is still possible the UK could have provided the credit at 8 per cent by mixing some aid money into the commercial loan, creating a so-called blended credit.

The OECD has been notified of the arrangement, and no objection was raised, officials said.

Davy McKee's problem was that the money had been promised on the same terms as the first blast furnace it built for Posco. The company had for long been chosen by Posco to build the second. But if the finance was not forthcoming, the job might have gone to international tender, and been won by Japanese competitors.

The company received a letter of intent from Posco last autumn but the signature was held up by a disagreement between the UK and South Korean governments on the form of financial support being provided by official British agencies. Korea did not want the support to be in the form of aid and Britain did not want to breach OECD guidelines on interest relief on loans.

The blast furnace is to be built at Posco's new Kwangyang works on the south coast of Korea.

Occidental sells \$1bn Columbia stake to Shell

By William Hall in New York

OCCIDENTAL Petroleum, the Los Angeles-based oil company, has sold a 50 per cent stake in its newly discovered Colombian oilfield to the Royal Dutch/Shell group for \$1bn.

Occidental, which has a reputation for finding oil where others have failed, discovered the giant Cano Limon oilfield in the Llanos basin of north-eastern Colombia in July 1983. Since then the field, which is located close to the Venezuelan border, has become one of the most exciting oil prospects in the depressed world oil industry.

The new field is estimated to contain at least 1bn barrels of oil, which makes it rank as one of the biggest fields to be discovered since the discovery of Alaska's Prudhoe Bay in the 1960s. Oil industry observers say that the area could contain close to 2bn barrels of oil when exploration is finished.

Occidental has a 50 per cent share in the field along with Ecopetrol, the Colombian state oil company, and Dr Armand Hammer, Occidental's 86-year-old chairman, has said that it is the most exciting thing to happen to his company since it discovered oil in Libya and the British North Sea.

Shell Petroleum NV, a principal holding company of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, is taking a 50 per cent interest in Occidental's oil interests and discoveries for \$1bn, of which \$750m will be paid in cash on the closing which is expected to be on or about July 1.

The sale involves all of the stock of Occidental's subsidiary, Colombia-Cities Service Petroleum Corporation which owns 50 per cent of Occidental's interest in the Asciatintre in the Crayon Norte block, which contains the Cano Limon field and recent oil discoveries in Redondo and Cano Verde. This subsidiary also owns 50 per cent of Occidental's interests in the association contracts in Cinaruco, Corocora, Rondon, and Rio Tame blocks as well as 50 per cent of Occidental's producing interest in Las Monas.

The deal is a major move for Occidental which has a net worth of \$2.8bn and had a market capitalisation of \$3bn ahead of the deal. Following the announcement, its shares jumped \$2 to \$34.74. Occidental will remain the operator of the operations.

The agreement was announced in Bogota after a meeting between Colombia's President Betancur, Dr Hammer and Mr J.M.E. van Engelsdoven, a group managing director of Royal Dutch/Shell.

President Betancur welcomed Royal Dutch/Shell's participation

UK to develop Stansted as a London airport

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT, AND STEFAN WAGSTYL IN LONDON

THE UK GOVERNMENT is to allow the development of Stansted airport, 30 miles (48 km) north-east of London, from its present capacity of 2m passengers a year to an eventual total of 15m.

It has also rejected, for the time being, proposals for a fifth passenger terminal at Heathrow, London's main airport. But this possibility will be kept under review.

The proposals, certain to produce another major battle in the long-running saga of London's airport development, are the main conclusions of the Government's long-awaited White Paper (policy statement) on UK airports, issued yesterday. It is designed to create a policy for airport development throughout the country until the end of the century.

The White Paper also confirms the Government's intention to privatise the British Airports Authority (BAA), which runs seven airports, as soon as possible. It will be privatised as a single entity - but as a holding company owning seven separate companies, each running an airport.

The policy statement reveals that Luton council, owner and manager of Luton airport in Bedfordshire, 30 miles north of London, has been asked to study its possible expansion from the present capacity of 3.4m passengers a year to 5m.

Manchester airport, in north-west England, will be developed as

a major regional hub airport attracting more international services.

The other important development revealed in the White Paper is the Government's intention to introduce legislation obliging local authorities which own airports to turn them into private sector companies. The shares could be owned either by the authorities or private investors, or both.

The aim would be to ensure that more competition and private sector finance was introduced into the running of these airports.

The White Paper seeks to lessen the impact on residents around Stansted, which is close to the town of Bishop's Cleeve, by stating that development would be in phases. The first phase will increase capacity up to between 7m and 8m passengers a year. No timetable is given for this. There will be a limit - undisclosed - on the number of aircraft movements and no second runway will be built.

The White Paper does say, however, that "in time, increases in demand may justify further development to use the full capacity of Stansted's runway (25m passengers a year)."

In the House of Commons, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, said:

Continued on Page 26
White Paper details, Page 6; Editorial comment, Page 24

Row over Brussels car pollution plan

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday published proposals for tough new limits on car exhaust pollution and immediately ran into a barrage of criticism from environmentalists and the motor industry.

National officials in Brussels fear the proposals might upset the precarious political compromise agreed by environment ministers last March, when they set a timetable for the introduction of less-polluting cars.

No precise standards were set then. They have to be agreed by the end of the month if West Germany is not to press ahead unilaterally on July 1 with a tax incentive scheme for cars "friendly" to the environment.

This would almost certainly spark off retaliation by France. It is


argued in Brussels that failure to agree on standards would threaten Community-wide competition in the car market, the largest genuine common market for industrial goods in the EEC.

The Commission's proposals are aimed at finding a middle way between the demands of the environmentalist lobby, in West Germany in particular, and the fears of the car makers in other member states.

The Commission suggests that emissions of nitrogen oxides, the most damaging component of vehicle pollution, be restricted to 3.5 grammes per test for large cars (over 2 litres) and to 4.0 grammes per test for medium cars (1.4 to 2.0 litres). This compares with a Ger-

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Mexico's President in Spain

By Tom Burns in Madrid

MEXICO'S President, Miguel de la Madrid, arrived in Spain yesterday on the first leg of a European tour that includes Belgium, France, West Germany and Britain.

He arrived in Seville and travels to Madrid today to begin a five-day official trip which will focus strongly on increased commercial links and the feasibility of Mexican-Spanish joint ventures.

Aside from several rounds of talks with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos, President de la Madrid will meet business and banking leaders in Madrid and Barcelona.

A key intention of the visit to Spain and the remainder of the tour is to signal the recovery of the Mexican economy. Spanish exports to Mexico, which peaked at \$513m in 1981, had slumped to \$123m by 1983 and were down again last year.

Spain is the second largest importer of Mexican oil and Mexico's petrol-based exports to Spain run close to \$2bn annually.

Once the more mature joint venture projects concerning the Spanish aerospace company Casa which is bidding for an agreement to build 10 units of its Aviocar C-212 adapted for coastal patrol use by the Mexican navy.

David Barchard examines Ankara's feelings towards the European Community

Impasse in Turkish-EEC relations

LAST MONTH the European Community staged an exhibition in the Turkish city of Van, 800 miles east of Ankara and only 50 miles from the Turkish-Iranian frontier. The aim was to explain the EEC and its working to ordinary Turks. Brussels has been engaged in this kind of activity, including inviting officials from Ankara to visit the Berlaymont, for some time. However, the impasse in Turkish-EEC relations shows no sign of lifting.

In theory, Turkey should only have another 10 years to go before it completes a transitional phase started in 1973 and aimed at a full customs union: at that point it would presumably have become eligible to apply for full membership.

In practice, however, the 20-year-old association agreement which, unlike the association agreements of the south Mediterranean countries, specifically aims at eventual full Turkish membership of the EEC, has run on to the sand. The organs of the association, its joint committees at ministerial and parliamentary level, have not met for five years.

Turkey stopped making tariff cuts in 1977. The Community is unable to honour an undertaking made more than 10 years ago to allow the free migration of Turkish workers inside its member countries from 1988.

The larger issues remain unresolved, while short-term disputes simmer. Turkey wants more access

to EEC markets for its textiles. It resents a 3½ year ban on Community aid under the fourth financial protocol, imposed in 1981 because of concerns at Turkey's human rights record under the military administration.

Greek accession has brought some additional problems with Community minimum import prices being applied to what were traditional Turkish exports to Europe, such as figs and bananas.

The question overshadowing all these short-term difficulties, however, is whether or not Turkey should make an application for full membership of the EEC.

In 1980, five years after the Greeks applied for full membership, Turkey's last civilian government announced it would apply that year, but the army takeover of September that year forestalled the move.

All subsequent Turkish governments have been committed to the idea of an application in the fairly near future. Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister (suspected by his critics for facing eastwards to the Islamic world rather than westwards to Europe) has spoken of a possible "surprise application" and has sometimes seemed to regard the matter as a diplomatic game of nerves.

According to officials, however, Turkey is expected to apply within the period of the present five-year plan, which ends in 1990. There are

known to be regular high-level discussions over whether or not the application should be made, but the spirit of all these discussions is fairly clear. Turkey is not in a European mood; for trade it is looking to markets in the Middle East, Africa and Asia; for defence it is aligning itself more closely with the U.S.; in culture, it is looking increasingly to its Ottoman and Islamic past.

Some officials believe that an application at the moment, particularly while the EEC is struggling to adapt to the Spanish and Portuguese enlargement, would be premature.

"We may be naive but we are not stupid," says one official. "If we cannot get the basic elements of the association agreement to work, why should we make an application for full membership?" He believes that Turkish membership is unlikely before the turn of the century. "We should knock on the door when we can stand tall."

Aside over symbolic issues remains an important strand in the troubled relationship. European criticism, particularly in the European Parliament, over allegations of torture (firmly denied by the Minister of the Interior) and such controversial court cases as the jailing of peace activists, is bitterly resented.

In this atmosphere of mutual recrimination, day-to-day diplomacy between Turkey and the EEC is conducted in a chilly spirit. The Community maintains an informa-

tion office in Ankara which has taken some of the sting out of the strong "Turkish anti-market" lobby which existed in the 1980s and 1970s.

Instead, the Community has to contend with Istanbul businessmen who are in favour of Turkish entry at the earliest possible moment as well as a resentful government. A top EEC official who recently visited Turkey is said to have been struck by what he regarded as the gap between Turkish perceptions of the Community and the realities of the EEC.

The most thankless diplomatic job in Ankara remains that of the head of the EEC office there: it is currently held by a former Labour Party politician, Mr Gwyn Morgan, who does not lead an easy life.

One particular difficulty is that the Turks tend to view the Community in terms of their undoubted strategic importance to the Western Alliance. EEC insistence that "the Community is not a defence community" is met with total incomprehension or scepticism.

That casts a light on the original motivation behind the 1964 Treaty of Ankara which set up the Association Agreement. Discreet behind-the-scenes pressure from the U.S. (which has never been eager to see its relations with Turkey become too overtly bilateral) was responsible for the original idea of full membership. It was eagerly adopted by the el-

der generation of Turkish diplomats, who were and are still eager to lead Turkey as far and firmly as possible into the Western European community of nations.

The U.S. apparently has not entirely relinquished the idea of full Turkish membership.

Economists, however, remain troubled by the idea of a customs union between Turkey and the Community. "When you get a customs union between a semi-industrialised country and one or more advanced industrial economies, the usual effect is that the less developed economy starts to deindustrialise," says one American economist.

That is precisely the fear that lay behind the Community's hostility towards the Community in Turkey among the political extremes a decade ago.

Everyone agrees that the immediate way to move forward is to unlock the \$630m owing under the fourth financial protocol.

The aid is expected to be unblocked some time in 1990 - though exactly when will depend partly on the political balance between conservatives and socialists in Europe, and partly on Turkey's perceived progress in its transition towards full parliamentary democracy.

But real progress in the relationship may have to wait until after the next Turkish elections (due in 1998) produce a parliament in which the major opposition parties are represented.

Craxi threatens to quit if wage poll goes against him

By James Buxton in Rome

SIG BETTINO CRAXI, the Italian Prime Minister, said yesterday that he would resign "one minute later" if the vote in this weekend's referendum on wage indexation goes against his Government's policy.

Nearly 45m Italians are to be asked whether they want four points cut last year from the scale mobile wage indexation mechanism to be restored this

triggering pay rises of up to 1.7-2.00 (11) a month for wage-earners covered by the system.

The referendum was promoted by the opposition Communist Party after it failed last year to stop the Craxi Government from making the temporary cut in the index as an anti-inflation measure.

Sig Craxi's decision to link the fate of his Government to the outcome of the referendum runs counter to the attitude towards the referendum adopted by most of the other members of his five-party coalition. The Christian Democrats have given the impression that the referendum outcome does not matter very much.

While the Communist party is campaigning hard for a vote of "Yes" to the virtually un-

intelligible 200-word question which voters are being asked to respond to, the campaign for a "No" vote has been thin. By threatening to resign, Sig Craxi may actually reinforce his position vis-a-vis his coalition partners whatever the outcome. If the "No" vote prevails he can claim most of the credit for the victory; if the "Yes" vote wins he can blame his allies for letting him down and require them to give him stronger support in a new Government. Whether his threat will have any effect on the voter remains to be seen.

At a news conference in Rome yesterday the Prime Minister exuded considerable confidence that the "No" vote would be victorious. He refused to be drawn on what might happen next if he did have to resign.

Sig Craxi warned yesterday that the outcome of a "Yes" vote would be a boost to inflation. Confindustria, the private employers' association, says it will in any case only pay wage increases in respect of two of the four points that would be restored, and will formally abandon the scale mobile altogether next year.

'Dynamite' proves a damp squib

By Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen

THE POWER of trade union money to bring down Denmark's non-Socialist coalition Government was put to the test yesterday.

The Special Workers Union of unskilled workers has allocated Dkr 180m (£12.8m) to an anti-Government campaign, an unheard-of sum in Danish political terms and equal to 30 times the budget for Prime Minister Poul Schluter's Conservative Party.

The union campaign is the result of the Government's statutory incomes policy imposed in March which is designed to hold the increase in wages to about 2 per cent a year over the coming two years.

The union got into its stride yesterday when it decided to make Denmark's World Cup qualifying round soccer match against the Soviet Union an opportunity to rally the troops.

There is a soccer chant here: "We are red, we are white, we are Danish dynamite."

"Put Danish dynamite under Schluter," the union urged in press advertisements this week. "First the kick-off against Schluter and football afterwards," they added, calling for demonstrations in Copenhagen before the match yesterday afternoon.

But when Mr Hardy Hansen, the union chairman, turned up to address the crowd outside Parliament yesterday morning there were only 500 people in a square which can accommodate well over 100,000.

"They couldn't even sell soap powder the way they are carrying on," said the Prime Minister.

Inquiry into Nobel group arms sales

By David Brown in Stockholm

NOBEL INDUSTRIES, the Swedish armaments and chemicals group, is under investigation for violating Stockholm's ban on arms shipments to nations at war.

Export documents discovered at the Nobel Kemi subsidiary - which suggest that "large amounts" of explosive material have been shipped to several Gulf states over the past two years - have been seized by customs officials here.

The group is alleged to have supplied weapons, including primary explosives charges for missiles and other ammunition, to the Iranian army.

Nobel Industries, which is refusing comment, was formed through the takeover last year of KemaNobel, Sweden's largest chemicals group - by Bofors, the armaments manufacturer.

The group has been dogged by persistent charges of illegal weapons supplying. The most recent, concerning guided missile sales to several Gulf states, is the subject of a separate police inquiry.

Irish table Bill to extend voting right

A Bill to give voting rights to British citizens living in the Irish Republic was moved in the Dail (Parliament) yesterday. An estimated 12,000 people will benefit, writes Brendan Kavanagh in Dublin.

It also provides for the extension of voting rights on a reciprocal basis to citizens of other EEC countries. The Government hopes the Bill will encourage EEC states to extend the right to vote in parliamentary elections to EEC citizens.

Fiat subsidiary to supply assembly lines for GM

By Alan Friedman in Gruigliasco, Piedmont

COMAU, the factory automation and machine tools subsidiary of the Fiat Group, is to supply General Motors of the U.S. and Canada with \$80m of automated assembly lines for the manufacturing of aluminium cylinder heads.

The order, which is to be completed by the end of this year, calls for Comau to supply about 50 large metal cutting and assembly transfer lines, which include more than 200 robots for metal cutting operations. The robots are capable of working from five different angles and the assembly machinery is electromechanical and contains hydraulic elements.

The manufacturing and assembly machinery, with a total productive

capacity of 10,000 cylinder heads a day, is destined for two Chevrolet factories in the General Motors network. One is at Thomaston near Buffalo, New York, and the other at Saint Catherine's in Ontario.

Comau, which last year reported a 114.2m (£72m) net profit on 1498bn (\$262m) of sales, derived roughly 70 per cent of its turnover from domestic sales, including intra-group orders for Fiat.

Dr Paolo Comandini, Comau managing director, said yesterday that in the last eight months of 1994 the company received \$100m of new orders from the U.S. More than \$100m of these orders are expected to appear as part of Comau's 1995 total sales.

Dutch factory shelved

By Laura Raun in Amsterdam

INMOS, the British integrated circuit company, and two Dutch Government-sponsored venture capital funds, have shelved plans for a £1 000m (\$173m) semiconductor factory in the province of Limburg.

Inmos, which suffered a loss in the first quarter, cited the sharp decline in the integrated circuit industry as a reason for postponing expansion plans.

There has been speculation that Inmos, which was taken over by Thorn EMI last year, will be in the red for the first time in several years.

Present production capacity in Inmos's Colorado Springs and Newport, South Wales, factories is sufficient for the time being although a

third facility in the long term is still possible, the company said.

The Limburg Institute for Development Finance, a provincially owned venture capital fund, first approached Inmos 2½ years ago with financial incentives to build a plant in the southern province. In recent years, the Dutch Government has sought to revitalise the Limburg economy, which was depressed by the closure of its coal mines in the 1980s.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

FRENCH POLLS POINT TO BIG WIN FOR GOVERNMENT OPPONENTS

Disputes jeopardise opposition lead

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

THE HOPES of French opposition parties of impressing public opinion this weekend with a display of their unity have been badly jolted by a fresh squabble among their leadership about future economic policy.

The quarrel comes at a time when public opinion polls are suggesting the parliamentary opposition will win an outright majority in the National Assembly at the elections next March—but one which could disappear if there is continuing dissension on the Right.

A computer simulation by the Sofres market research institute suggests an opposition majority of 30 seats in the next Assembly on the basis of proportional representation and the current findings of the public opinion polls. The forecast assumes, however, that the Socialists would only win 25-26 per cent of the vote. The Socialists are aiming for 30 per cent.

FRANCE yesterday announced FFR 3bn (£250m) worth of fresh benefits for the unemployed, writes David Housego. Most will go to the long-term unemployed. These out of work for more than a year have received only FFR 40 (£3.36) a day, bringing them into what has been called here a class of "new poor."

As a result of yesterday's measures 115,000 long-term unemployed will receive FFR 64.50 a day from July 1. Unemployment figures

have been falling slightly over the past three months: the total at the end of April was 2.4m. The number of net jobs being shed in the economy is still growing. The current account deficit, meanwhile, rose to FFR 17.7bn (£1.5bn) in the first quarter. This was mostly due to the widening of the trade deficit to FFR 10.5bn over the three months. Debt servicing payments were also unusually large.

The renewed squabbling has brought M Jacques Chirac, leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR, into conflict with M Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister, who is increasingly spoken about his presidential ambitions.

Both are due to appear on the

same public platform on Sunday along with former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Their joint attendance at a liberal convention will be the first time they have appeared in public together since 1981 and was intended to crown the opposition's efforts to negotiate an

agreed policy in government.

On Sunday, however, M Barre described as "demagogic" the RPR's economic proposals which had been announced the day before at a special party congress. He said the opposition would lack credibility with the electorate if it implied that the economy would be flourishing in six months and unemployment checked in a year.

M Barre was attacking Gaullist proposals for Reagan-style tax cuts and deregulation of industry as a means of injecting dynamism into the economy. M Barre believes they would lead to a widening of the budget deficit.

In going so far, M Barre was giving vent to his irritation at M Chirac's speech on Saturday. Leaving no doubt that he had M Barre in mind, M Chirac said that it would be suicidal for the opposition to return to a policy of conservative deflation and austerity.

Papandreou keeps key party men in cabinet

By Andriana Ierodiakonou in Athens

GREECE'S SOCIALIST Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, was sworn in yesterday at the head of an 18 member "service" cabinet. This mainly comprises key ministers from the previous administration holding the same portfolios, with an emphasis on personalities with a strong track record in the Socialist Party (Pasek).

The present cabinet's task will be to run the country until Parliament in July approves the merging of existing ministries into "super-ministries" and abolishing others.

Mr Papandreou continues to hold the defence portfolio. To this he has added the Ministry of Northern Greece, responsible for administrative matters in the sensitive areas of Macedonia and Thrace.

Of the other ministers, a majority are distinguished either by high positions in the Pasok hierarchy, or by a long and loyal history with the party.

Mr Yiannis Charalambopoulos remains Foreign Minister; Mr Akis Tsohatzopoulos stays as Minister to the Prime Minister and also assumes the Labour portfolio; Mr George Gennimatas, keeps the Health Ministry; and Mr Costas Simiatis retains the Agriculture Ministry. All four are members of the Pasok executive bureau, the party's top executive body.

A key exception to the strong party presence in the cabinet is the Economy and Finance Minister, Mr Gerassimos Arsenis, who is a technocrat rather than a party man. He also takes on the Merchant Marine portfolio. He worked for the OECD and the United Nations before becoming Governor of the Bank of Greece and then a minister.

Mr Theodore Pangalos remains Under-Secretary for EEC Affairs, a job he pursued faithfully during the Greek fight for the Integrated Mediterranean Programme. The only woman in the new cabinet is the former film star, Melina Mercouri, who has kept the job of Culture Minister.

Another minister, apart from Mr Papandreou, to hold three portfolios is Mr Evangelos Kriakoulis. He is new Minister for the Environment, for Transport and for Public Works.

West Germany reduces subsidies to industry

BY PETER BRUCE IN BONN

THE WEST GERMAN Economics Ministry has signalled the start of what it claims is a determined campaign to cut public subsidies to local industry.

Following talks between Herr Martin Bangemann, Economics Minister, and Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg his counterpart in the Finance Ministry, on next year's federal budget, the Economics Ministry said it would be cutting back its subsidies by DM 1bn (\$327m) in 1986.

A ministry statement said yesterday that the economics budget would be trimmed to DM 4.09bn in 1986 from DM 5.021bn this year. Shipyards and the steel, coal-mining and aerospace industries would be worst hit by the cuts, the statement said, with slightly more funds flowing into small businesses.

Aid to German shipyards will fall DM 30m to DM 200m next year, with steel producers — because of long-established European Community rulings — receiving no funds at all. German steelmakers are being paid some DM 385m by the state this year.

The German coal industry, which won promises of DM 1.54bn from the Economics Ministry this year, will have to do with DM 370m less. Although the measures will undoubtedly be greeted with relief from the many business lobbies that have recently been criticising the Government for not keeping to its election promises to cut state aids, it is highly unlikely that they will be regarded as nearly strong enough.

The Economics Ministry is only one of the country's principal sub-

dising agencies, with both the Finance Ministry (which controls a host of financially crippled industrial operations) and the Agriculture Ministry at least equalling its annual payments.

Total West German subsidies are almost incalculable anyway. Estimates by the five leading West German economic institutes for 1982 ranged between DM 40bn and DM 110bn. Total subsidies have risen at a conservatively estimated rate of 7.8 per cent a year since 1970 and many economists in Bonn are sceptical about the current right-of-centre Government's capacity to slow that down significantly.

The coal industry, which under the plans outlined by the Economics Ministry will face the biggest cutback next year, is supported in other ways.

Unemployed down by 112,000

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN BONN

UNEMPLOYMENT currently the most explosive political issue in West Germany, fell by 112,000 last month — a smaller improvement than hoped for by the hard-pressed coalition Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

According to statistics from the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg, the number of jobless dropped to 8.8 per cent of the workforce, 2.19m compared to 9.3 per cent, or just over 2.3m in April.

But Herr Heinrich Franke, president of the office, afterwards called the latest figures "disappointing." They reflected only the normal sea-

sonal improvement in the labour market and gave no sign that the present modest upswing in the economy was creating new jobs.

The only real comfort in the May returns was a sharp decline in the amount of short-time being worked in Germany and a modest rise in the number of notified vacancies, to 115,400. But this will be insufficient, almost certainly, to reduce the pressure on the Government for measures to produce a quick reduction in the number of jobless.

Further pointers to steady if unspectacular growth came yesterday with the latest figures for industrial

orders and output. New orders jumped 3 per cent in April, and for that month and March combined stood 6.5 per cent higher in volume terms than a year earlier. As usual, foreign demand made the running, with export orders up 13 per cent, while domestic orders rose just 3 per cent.

Industrial production, on the other hand, has been virtually flat so far in 1985. Although production in March and April was 4.5 per cent more than in the same months of 1984, April alone saw a 0.5 per cent decline from the level of March.

Sweden's deficit increases

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN accumulated a deficit of SKr 3bn (\$330m) on the current account of the balance of payments in the first three months of the year compared with a surplus of SKr 3.3bn in the corresponding period last year.

The deterioration in the country's external payments position was one of the chief factors that forced the Government to impose last month's credit squeeze and drastic increase of interest rates.

The measures were aimed at combating the crisis of confidence in the krona, halting the outflow of capital from the country, and dampening private consumption and saving imports.

According to figures released this week by the Riksbank, the central bank, the deterioration in the current account which showed a small surplus last year was even more rapid in the first quarter than was originally feared.

In March, the current account showed a deficit of SKr 1.6bn compared with a surplus of SKr 1.5bn a year earlier.

The big jump in imports means that the trade surplus — needed to meet the heavy interest payments on Sweden's mountain of foreign debt — slumped to only SKr 1.0bn in the first three months of the year compared with a surplus of SKr 9.2bn in the corresponding period of 1984.

Union militants fight police at SKF plant

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

AT LEAST 100 people were injured, some seriously, during clashes between French riot police and militant members of the pro-Communist CGT union yesterday in some of the worst labour violence since the Left came to power four years ago.

Not since the incidents at the Talbot car plant at Poissy 18 months ago has there been such violent labour unrest in France. As many as 65 riot policemen and 35 demonstrators were hurt in six hours of clashes at Ivry, on the outskirts of Paris. The fact that this is in the parliamentary constituency of M Georges Marchais, the Communist party leader, has given the affair an additional political dimension.

The incidents were sparked off when a commando of CGT militants made a dawn raid on a ball bearing factory owned by the Swedish SKF group. The plant has been at the centre of a dispute ever since the company decided to close it about two years ago.

The CGT and the Communists opposed the decision and militants have occupied the factory, which employs 639 people, for the past 18 months

until riot police were sent in to clear it last week. This led to violence last week and provoked a storm of protests from the Communist leadership and the local population.

The Communist party and CGT leadership are clearly seeking to transform the Ivry dispute into a broad attack on the Government's economic and industrial policies. In recent weeks, the Communists have toughened their attacks against the Socialists. Their opposition has steadily increased since the party withdrew from the coalition last summer.

At the same time, the party and union leaders have faced growing criticism from their rank-and-file as the communist influence continues to wane. Indeed, those leaders have failed so far to mobilise workers to put pressure on the Government which has been able to push forward a number of industrial restructurings in a relatively peaceful labour climate.

However, in the case of SKF the CGT has finally managed to launch a spectacular action with the full backing of local militants and the Ivry population.



Tear gas swirls around the legs of one of the demonstrators at the SKF plant yesterday as he aims his catapult at riot police trying to clear the factory of its union occupiers.



A million people want a place to play

This year about a million people will be visiting the Mersey Waterfront.

From far and near they will be coming to the historic Albert Dock Village — the country's largest group of Grade One Listed Buildings — currently being restored in a multi-million pound project comprising shops, businesses, entertainments and the famous Merseyside Maritime Museum. By 1988 Albert Dock will also be home of the "Tate in the North", bringing one of the country's finest collections of contemporary art to Liverpool.

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AMERICAN NEWS

Kaufman warns of decline in U.S. credit standards

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

THE REVOLUTION which is sweeping through the U.S. financial markets is lowering credit standards and chipping away at confidence in the financial system, warned Dr Henry Kaufman, Salomon Brothers' chief economist yesterday.

In a hard hitting attack on several recent developments in the U.S. financial system, Dr Kaufman told a House of Representatives energy and commerce subcommittee that the "integrity of credit" is being chipped away by the financial revolution which is "muting the responsibilities of creditors and debtors."

His remarks are the latest sign of the growing concern in the U.S. at the pace of change which is taking place in the financial markets following the removal of many regulations on banks and other financial institutions.

The dismantling of the old

rules has encouraged a much more entrepreneurial spirit among the leaders of America's financial institutions and led to the development of a wide range of new products. But it has considerably increased the risks facing bankers and their customers.

Dr Kaufman cited four adverse developments in the credit markets which were cause for concern in his testimony yesterday.

● The credit market debt of households, businesses and Government is increasing at an unprecedented pace. Last year it rose by 14 per cent, double the growth of the 1960s and three percentage points above the 1970s growth. He says it is unusual for it to rise faster than the growth in Gross National Product.

● Short-term borrowing, mainly floating rate financing, is rising rapidly while long-term private

sector borrowing has diminished significantly in importance.

● Credit quality of business corporations continues to deteriorate even though the economic expansion is in its third year. Mergers and acquisitions are exacerbating this.

● The equity base of many financing institutions is exceedingly thin. Institutional asset quality also is declining. In many instances market value of institutional assets is below cost, leaving liquidation value of institutional capital in serious need of repair.

Dr Kaufman warned the committee that "we are drifting toward a financial system in which credit has no guardian." While deposit insurance had been an important element in restoring confidence after the bank collapses of the 1930s it "served to remove the disciplining link" between the borrower and depositor.

Senate rejects cuts in SDI cash

By Reginald Dale, U.S. Editor, in Washington

THE REPUBLICAN-LED U.S. senate yesterday brushed aside a series of Democratic attempts to slash funding for President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, known as the Star Wars space defence programme, upholding the sum of \$2.97bn (£2.35bn) for the coming 1986 fiscal year proposed by the armed services committee.

The Senate leadership easily defeated four Democratic amendments that would have cut funding by \$1bn, frozen spending at the current year's level of \$1.4bn, or compromised nearer the \$2.97bn figure. The committee's proposal already represents a reduction of over \$700m from the \$3.7bn that Mr Reagan originally requested.

The programme is likely to be treated less kindly, however, by the Democratic House, which is due to vote later this month. The House armed services committee has cut Mr Reagan's request to \$2.5bn, move which Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, has attacked as tantamount to collaborating with the Soviet Union in its to torpedo the programme.

Amendments are expected on the House floor both to cut the \$2.5bn still further, and to raise it back to something nearer Mr Reagan's request.

U.S. car sales up 2.6% in May

By William Hall in New York

U.S. CAR sales rose 2.6 per cent to 1.07m in May but over four-fifths of the increase was accounted for by higher imports, principally from Japan.

The sales of domestically produced cars rose 0.5 per cent to 897,590 in May while imports rose 9.9 per cent to 263,787 units. Imports accounted for 34.8 per cent of the market compared to 32.1 per cent a year ago. Japanese exporters boosted their share of the market from 14.8 per cent in April to 19.2 per cent in May.

The May import figures translate into an annual rate of 2.5m cars, substantially up on the annual rates of 2.2m and 2.4m in March and April.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy in Lima reviews the problems facing Peru's

Garcia promises energetic reform



Sr Garcia: putting Peru's house in order

"THE FIRST thing we're going to do is to get our relations with the International Monetary Fund on an honest basis. We are fed up with Peru and the fund promising each other things they can't deliver."

Sr Gustavo Soberbein is one of the group of young economists advising the 36-year-old Sr Alan Garcia, who was declared President-elect of Peru last Saturday. Sr Soberbein was putting a gloss on Garcia's decision to put Peru's financial house in order before resuming direct and formal negotiations with the IMF. Sr Garcia takes up the presidency on July 28.

"Anyone who looks at the future understands that Peru simply cannot pay its debts as they presently stand. No country can pay out 80 per cent of what it earns in exports on servicing a debt of \$14bn," Sr Soberbein says.

According to central bank compilation, if Peru continues to devote no more than the present \$25m a month to debt servicing it will be \$1.4bn in arrears with its creditors by the year end.

Whatever the chances of eventually coming to mutually acceptable terms with Peru's creditors, Sr Garcia's team gives the impression of brimming with new energy to tackle Peru's financial problems. They contrast sharply with the stagnant, do-nothing image that the incumbent Government of President Fernando Belaunde has acquired in the closing stages of his five-year term.

"The only ministries that Belaunde was interested in were communications and housing," says one Garcia adviser, criticising the President's passion for constructing

roads and public buildings. Sr Garcia is certain to take a broader and more radical view of the country's economic problems. He is willing to go a long way to meet the Fund's criticism of past government policy even if they are not in direct negotiation with the Fund.

The state corporations such as Electro Peru and Petro Peru, the power and oil games which account for the largest fraction of sector deficit, will be shaken up as the Government aims to reduce public sector deficits from 10 per cent of gross national product to 6 per cent over two years.

"Many public sector tariffs are ridiculous," says Sr Victor Lopez, one of Sr Garcia's economic team. "It has been tabulated, for instance, that a poor family in Lima pays 30 times as much for its water as a rich family living in one of the smart districts of the capital."

Sr Garcia's advisers are also expected to cut military expenditure. One of the major foreign policy issues in the next few months will be the launching of a plan to persuade South American governments to limit military spending to 5 per cent of the GNP, an idea which should also go down well with Peru's creditors.

"One of our difficulties is that Chile and Ecuador are both devoting 7 or 8 per cent of their GNP to military spending," commented a presidential adviser.

The Garcia Government, however, will be unwilling to impose a full stop on Peru's growth prospects or put an end to the public sector deficit from one month to another, or reduce tariff protection completely for industries which are already at or over the brink of bankruptcy, as it says the IMF demands.

To do so would create a dislocation and social unrest, the Garcia team claims. The average income of Peruvians has already dropped by 13.3 per cent since 1981 with the poorest suffering the most.

"We already have a problem with the left-wing Sendero Luminoso guerrillas, which means we have 15,000 troops in the field trying to control them. Does the Fund want to have us put 30,000 troops in action against a growing guerrilla movement?" asks Sr Soberbein.

Peru also has to face an increasing challenge of inflation: the cost of living rose 10.9 per cent in May and the recent measure to mint the intipala, a new currency unit representing 1,000 of the old

Reagan launches scathing attack against Nicaraguan leadership

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan yesterday launched a scathing new attack on the Sandinista leadership of Nicaragua as Congress prepared to consider revised plans for U.S. aid to the anti-government Contra rebels.

Both the Administration and Republican congressional leaders expressed optimism that a package of non-lethal or "humanitarian" aid for the Contras could be approved in the coming days—reversing Mr Reagan's stinging defeat on the issue in the House six weeks ago.

Mr Robert Dole, the Senate Republican majority leader, said that he had the votes to pass a bipartisan \$32m (\$24.4m) two-year package in the Senate while Mr Robert Michel, the House minority leader, was equally confident over the prospects for a \$27m plan in the House. Sharp differences remained, however, as to whether the funds should be administered by the Central Intelligence Agency.

On a swing through Oklahoma to promote his tax reform proposals, Mr Reagan said that Congress could no longer

"ignore the obvious." The Soviet bloc nations and their terrorist allies, Libya and Iran, were pouring weapons and ammunition "to establish a beachhead on our own doorstep," he said.

Referring to Sr Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan President, Mr Reagan said: "The little dictator who went to Moscow in his green fatigues to receive a bear hug did not forsake the doctrine of Lenin when he returned to the west and reappeared in a two-piece suit. He made his choice long ago. History will not wait on us."

Mr Reagan's remarks came a day after the White House had condemned Nicaragua for what it called "increased aggressive behaviour" against neighbouring Honduras and Costa Rica, and called on the Sandinista Government "to halt immediately any further military operations against its neighbours."

Tim Come in Managua writes: A Nicaraguan army offensive along the San Juan river in the south of the country has overrun a number of base camps of the U.S.-backed guerrilla organisation ARDE, cut its supply lines and forced the bulk of its forces over the border into Costa Rica.

According to Commander Enrique Ortega, Nicaragua's Defence Minister, the operation is aimed at eliminating the guerrilla presence in the south of the country and at re-establishing civilian boat traffic along the San Juan river which has been suspended since 1982 because of the guerrilla war.

Over 70 guerrillas, or contras, have been killed, three of their principal bases overrun and air strikes are being mounted upon other guerrilla concentrations and airstrips operated by the contras.

The army has also cut an important supply route through the jungle which was used to maintain guerrilla units deeper inside the country operating in the region of Nueva Guinea.

Reports from Costa Rica say that the ARDE guerrilla organisation is now in bad shape, and that its commander, Sr Eden Pastora, has left Costa Rica on an urgent trip abroad to raise funds for arms

Unions to fight Canada's free trade moves

BY BERNARD SIMON IN TORONTO

CANADA'S LABOUR movement is preparing to mount an offensive against government moves to liberalise trade with the U.S. by far Canada's largest trading partner.

Mr Bob White, the director of the United Auto Workers Union of Canada, said on Tuesday that behind-the-scenes consultations presently being held by the Federal Government on U.S.-Canada free trade, have stifled public discussion of the issue.

"What worries me is that this thing is sliding very quickly," Mr White said.

Labour leaders will discuss tactics to publicise anti-free trade views at a meeting in Ottawa later this month.

The Government is expected to outline its proposals for trade negotiations with the U.S. later this year. Two-way trade totalled \$315.1bn (£28bn) in 1984. The Canadian business community generally supports moves to lower trade barriers between the two countries.

Canadian trade unionists fear that trade liberalisation

will prompt many U.S. companies to supply Canada from plants in the U.S., shrinking or closing down their Canadian operations. Mr White also argued that Canadian exporters already have all the access they need to the U.S. market when demand is strong, and that a free trade agreement would crumble under U.S. protectionist pressures at times of excess American capacity. He pointed to current moves in the U.S. to restrict lumber imports from Canada.

Opponents of trade liberalisation are likely to get a major boost from the imminent change of government in the province of Ontario, Canada's industrial heartland. The Liberal Party, supported by the left-leaning New Democratic Party (NDP), is expected to take office in the province within the next two weeks.

The NDP, whose support comes mainly from blue-collar workers, has deep reservations about opening up Canadian markets to U.S. manufacturers.

OVERSEAS NEWS

U.S. Congress close to adopting sanctions against S. Africa

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Congress has moved significantly closer to imposing economic sanctions on South Africa, with the adoption of a series of anti-apartheid measures by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The committee's action, which included a ban on all U.S. bank loans to the South African Government, was the strongest so far approved in the Republican-controlled Senate and a major rebuff for President Ronald Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with Pretoria.

The 16 to 1 committee vote in favour of sanctions suggested that the legislation has a good chance of passing the full Senate in the days ahead. It came as the Democratic House of Representatives continued work on its own, even tougher measures, with a view to adopting a full sanctions package later last night.

As well as banning bank loans, the Senate version

would prohibit computer sales to the South African security services or other agencies involved in enforcing racial segregation, and the sale of U.S. nuclear technology and equipment to South Africa and oblige U.S. companies operating there to provide equal housing and working conditions for black and white under the so-called Sullivan principles.

The House legislation would, in addition, immediately ban further investment in South Africa by U.S. companies and end imports into the U.S. of South African gold Kruggerand coins. The draft Senate Bill would add those measures after 18 months, if "significant progress has not been made toward ending the policy of apartheid."

Once legislation is passed by both houses, the two versions would have to be reconciled in conference negotiations, which would probably settle on a compromise somewhere between the two.

'Blacks will be expelled' if disinvestment laws passed

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE expulsion from South Africa of the black immigrants from neighbouring independent states was one of the options open to South Africa if the U.S. Congress passed disinvestment legislation, Mr Louis Nel, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, told a party meeting in the small Eastern Cape town of Beaufort.

He added that America must realise that if it went ahead with disinvestment South Africa would have to take steps to protect itself in a way that would make people realise that South Africa was the regional power in Southern Africa.



Mr Nel: the regional power in Southern Africa

The presence of illegal black workers in South Africa is often cited by South African diplomats as proof that its apartheid laws are not so harsh as to prevent South Africa being seen as a source of income and the opportunity for foreign blacks and further evidence of the dependence of other Southern African economies on continu-

Israelis to stay in Lebanon to beef up SLA

By David Lennen in Tel Aviv

ISRAELI troops are still in Lebanon today, the third anniversary of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, despite promises by the Prime Minister that the withdrawal from Lebanon would be completed by June 6.

Israel began evacuating its forces from Lebanon in February, giving up large chunks of Lebanese territory, in two major pull-backs. But contrary to earlier undertakings it has now decided to leave a "limited number of troops in southern Lebanon for a short period," according to military officials in Tel Aviv.

The bulk of Israel's forces have been withdrawn from the border area but a few hundred soldiers and their equipment are remaining behind to try to beef up the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army (SLA) which Israel wants to take over policing of the border area.

The continuing military presence in southern Lebanon, including six Israeli observation posts as well as mobile units, has created considerable domestic concern that this could result in further Israeli casualties, notwithstanding official announcements that the withdrawals have been completed. It may also cause problems with Egypt, which has predicted major improvement in relations and the return of the ambassador to Tel Aviv on a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israel has proclaimed that it regards Lebanese territory up to 15 km deep, north of the border, as a security buffer zone. It wants to make the South Lebanese Militia a surrogate force to police this strip against Palestinian guerrilla infiltration.

However, it is generally acknowledged even by the Israeli military that this mainly Christian militia which is armed, trained and paid by Israel, is of dubious military ability without Israeli troops to back it up.

"We are leaving some soldiers in southern Lebanon to see how things develop there after the bulk of our forces is removed," the military official said.

If the area remains quiet then Israel may complete the evacuation in a few weeks.

Alain Cass, Asia Editor, examines the problems posed by Pakistan's nuclear programme

U.S. faces dilemma over its ties with Asia

THE PERSISTENT but vehemently denied accusations that Pakistan is well on the way to acquiring nuclear weapons is proving a serious embarrassment to U.S. attempts to improve relations with Asia's two major powers, China and India.

There are two aspects to America's dilemma. The first is the suspicion that China has, wittingly or otherwise, assisted Pakistan in its covert efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. That has seriously delayed U.S. efforts to push ahead with its attempts to involve China in closer relations, including the sensitive Nuclear Co-operation Agreement.

The second is the increasing concern felt in India at Pakistan's efforts and the growing threat that New Delhi would retaliate in the event Islamabad had acquired nuclear weapons.

India denounced nuclear devices in 1974, but successive Indian Prime Ministers have stated that their country would not develop a weapons system—a claim widely taken at face value.

The latest accusation, that Pakistan is on the verge of acquiring or may have already acquired nuclear weapons came this week from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi, in remarks clearly timed to coincide with his visit to the U.S. later this

month, also declared that India no longer excluded the possibility of acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

It seems probable that India has merely embarked on a strategy of ambiguity aimed at deterring Pakistan from pursuing its plans, but this is the first time that the nuclear option has been openly discussed in New Delhi at this level.

Active consideration of India's nuclear options would transmute the security situation on the subcontinent and place considerable pressure on President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Administration to curb Pakistan's activities, especially since Washington wants to improve relations with India.

The subject is bound to be the most important topic of discussion between President Reagan and Mr Gandhi during the Indian leader's visit.

At the same time, the subject of the Pakistan bombs makes it more difficult for the Administration to pursue its policy of selling sophisticated equipment to the Chinese. The suspicion that China has helped Pakistan develop a weapons capability is at the heart of congressional doubts over the Sino-U.S. nuclear deal.

It now seems unlikely, though not impossible, that the Nuclear Co-operation Agreement, initiated by President Reagan in Peking last Decem-

ber, will be ready for signing when Li Xiaonian the Chinese President visits the U.S. in July.

This was hinted at by Han Xu, the new Ambassador to the U.S. who said earlier this week that the Chinese were now "not so anxious" to have the agreement. Ambassador

Persistent accusations that Pakistan has obtained nuclear weapons—renewed this week by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi—and the suspicion that China has assisted in this, are proving an embarrassment to Washington's attempts to improve relations with Peking and New Delhi.

The prospect of a steady expansion in trade and personal exchanges between China and the Soviet Union over the next few years, even without significant political progress, is likely to further complicate the development of Sino-U.S. relations.

President Reagan will have to pick his way with even greater care through the various options available to him. He faces an early test of how to proceed over the next few months, when he must decide what weapons the U.S. will sell to China.

Last year, five Chinese military delegations visited the U.S.; in January, General John Shiao, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, went to Peking armed with cost estimates for the Chinese to consider. Among the items being considered are a fighter bomber aircraft, a nuclear submarine, surface-launched anti-submarine torpedoes, the Phalanx anti-missile gun, the General Electric LM 2500 gas turbine engine used to power destroyer-

sized ships, and the anti-tank TOW missile.

Asian countries, such as Taiwan and the Malay-dominated states of South-east Asia, who regard China as a potential threat to the region, are arguing against U.S. arms sales to the People's Republic. They are backed up by right-wingers in Washington, some of whom within the Administration, who believe that the proposed arms package would have little impact on China's defensive capacity to face up to the Soviet Union. It would, however, significantly strengthen Communist states in South-east Asia as well as Taiwan.

The momentum of Sino-U.S. relations will be hard to stop. In 1974, two-way trade between the two countries rose 37 per cent over the previous year to a record \$6.1bn (£5bn). Approval was given last year for \$2bn worth of advanced U.S. technology sales to China.

It also seems likely that, under Mr Gandhi, India and the U.S. will develop a more open and pragmatic relationship, something which both sides want.

However, Pakistan's efforts, real or imagined, to acquire nuclear weapons, is something which President Reagan will have to come to grips with if the U.S. is to make the best of both these opportunities.

Shamir rules out PLO at talks

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

MR YITZHAK SHAMIR, Israel's Foreign Minister, repeated yesterday that his Government would never negotiate with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation or the Palestine National Council, the parliament in exile.

His comments in London underline the difficulties faced by King Hussein of Jordan in pressing ahead with his plan for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to discuss the future of the Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Shamir had been told on Tuesday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher that the British Government supported King Hussein's initiative. However, Mr Shamir said that it was normal for close friends to have some difference of views and

claimed that Mrs Thatcher backed Israel's opposition to the Jordanian plan for an international Middle East peace conference.

The Foreign Minister added that it was "inconceivable" for the PLO ever to recognise Israel's right to exist because by so doing "they would have to dissolve themselves."

Israel admitted that there were risks for King Hussein in peace process but the only way to make progress would be for direct talks between the two countries.

King Hussein is in London this week and will be seeing Mrs Thatcher tomorrow. He has ruled out bilateral talks with Israel.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Richard Murphy,

will visit Jordan early next month for possible talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team on Middle East peace, Jordan's Information Minister said yesterday. Reuter reports from Amman.

It had been suggested that the first stage of the talks for an exchange of views between a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and the Americans might take place here. It is just an expectation by both sides (Jordan and the U.S.), Mr Mohammed al-Khatib, the Information Minister said.

Mr Khatib was commenting on an uncorroborated report in the government newspaper Sawt al-Shaah, which also said the PLO would nominate three non-PLO members for the talks with Mr Murphy.

Saudi oil output may be raised

SAUDI ARABIA may raise its oil output in the foreseeable future if other Opec members fail to stick to agreed production quotas, Mr Tariq David-West, the Nigerian Oil Minister said in an interview published yesterday. Reuter reports from Jeddah.

"If other Opec countries are not respecting the rules on pricing and production, Saudi Arabia will also decide to produce its own quota and let the market forces decide the price," Mr David-West told the English-language Saudi Gazette newspaper.

Saudi Arabia told a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in the Saudi resort of Taif on Monday that it was no longer prepared to compensate for overproduction by other Opec members, Mr David-West said.

Manila seeks Japanese aid

THE Philippines is seeking \$400m worth of new credits from Japan to finance 18 agricultural development projects, President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday. AP-DJ reports from Manila.

Mr Marcos said Japan so far had extended \$1.7bn in loans to the Philippines, making it the country's "biggest source of concessional bilateral credit."

The new credits being sought would be part of a yen credit package from Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, he said.

India minister

The profile of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, India's Minister for Finance and Commerce (India Survey, June 5), was wrongly accompanied by a picture of Dr M. Singh, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

WORLD TRADE NEWS

EEC welcomes U.S. concession on steel pipes

BY IVO DAWNAY IN BRUSSELS

EEC member states yesterday gave a broad welcome to a concession from the U.S. allowing above-quota sales of special steel pipes to the All American Pipeline company for its Texas to California project.

The positive reception to the U.S. gesture, made by Mr Malcolm Baldrige, Commerce Secretary, last weekend, means the Community has also agreed to open talks within a few days with the Americans on other outstanding steel issues of concern to Washington.

Mr Baldrige's offer was conditional on the EEC agreeing to conclude revision to the 1983 carbon steel agreement by October, and to open and finish consultations on several products from a 17-state list of special steels by July 15.

Permanent representatives of the Ten agreed to these terms at a meeting in Brussels yesterday. But formal approval will have to wait until tomorrow when agreement should pass through written procedures at the European Council.

When this process is completed, it is understood that Washington will lift its block on

the importation of 100,000 tonnes of special tubes for the All American Pipeline company which U.S. manufacturers have been unable to supply.

Agreement to new talks on the so-called "consultation products" will raise hopes among U.S. producers that the Community's growing share of the American market may now be contained.

Under existing arrangements these are allowed unrestricted access to the U.S. However sales from the EEC have increased to as much as three times their 1982 levels and the American industry is anxious to see restraints enforced.

The products most likely to face import restrictions are tin-free steel, black plate and alloy wire rods. When the discussions are concluded in the middle of July, the Community will have to decide whether to accept an agreement on limiting sales which would at least guarantee a share of the U.S. market, or to fail to agree leaving open the option of retaliation action through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Shipbuilding suffers further decline

By Andrew Fisher, Shipping Correspondent

WORLD shipbuilding orders continued their decline in the first quarter of this year, with both Japan and South Korea—the industry leaders—suffering large falls in new work.

Latest figures from Lloyd's Register of Shipping showed an order backlog of 22.5m gross tons at the end of March 1985, against 30.7m at the end of December 1984, and 31.4m the previous March. Just over 90 per cent of orders are scheduled for delivery by the end of 1985.

Japanese yards saw their order total fall by 1.5m tons during the three months to 11.6m, while that of South Korea went down by 349,000 tons to 5.4m. Brazil, which has just won a much-needed domestic tanker order, Spain and the U.S. also suffered sharp declines.

The world shipbuilding order total has hovered around the 30m-ton mark for the past seven years, ever since the early 1970s oil crisis sent business crashing from the 133m-ton peak reached in March 1974. In the 1980s, the highest order level has been the 37.5m tons recorded in June 1981.

Trade hopes recover from the spy scandal, writes John Elliott
India's affair with France resumes

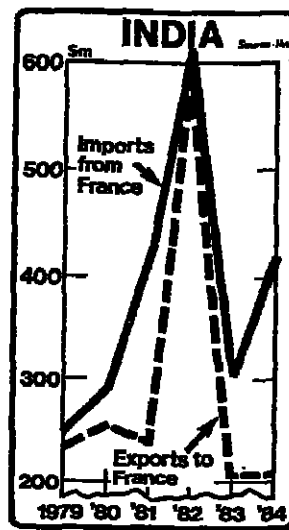
FOUR MONTHS after withdrawing its Ambassador and a defence attaché from New Delhi for alleged involvement in India's recent spy scandal, France today becomes the first Western country to receive Mr Rajiv Gandhi on an official visit since he became Prime Minister of India last November.

France has backed up this impressive diplomatic recovery by emerging as the front runner for a defence order worth up to \$500m for a 155 millimetre Howitzer gun, against competition from the U.K., Sweden, Austria and the U.S.

It is also trying to win contracts for airliners, helicopters and a power station which were last year being finalised with other countries, and is trying to avoid losing a \$42m telephone switchgear project which its CIT-Alcatel telecommunications company last year thought it had won.

France has been playing an increasingly large role in India's development in the past few years. It now wants to use Mr Gandhi's five-day visit to cement relationships in the wake of the spy episode and to persuade him to buy more high-technology goods.

Mr Gandhi started a two-week foreign tour yesterday with a one-day visit to Egypt. In France and in the U.S. where he spends five days next week, he will be opening festivals of



India similar to the cultural and other events staged in Britain in 1982. He is expected to visit the UK briefly during a second tour in October.

President Francois Mitterrand of France successfully developed a close rapport with the late Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. India admires France's independent foreign policy and far prefers its stance on issues such as world bank aid, the north-south dialogue, and GATT to those adopted by the U.S. and Britain.

This background of mutual understanding, backed up by French diplomatic aplomb and aggressive commercial salesmanship, has helped France to recover from the spy scandal, which allegedly involved the sale of secret government documents on commercial and defence projects to Russia (which Mr Gandhi visited last month) and other East European countries as well as France.

There may be few official announcements on projects while Mr Gandhi is in France, although a new agreement on scientific and cultural co-operation will probably be signed.

But Mr Gandhi may well tell the French Government that it is on a short list of two with either Austria or Sweden to supply the Howitzer gun.

France is about to start supplying 40 Mirage jet fighters and is bidding for part of a high combat aircraft development project and for other electronic defence equipment. Its Aerospace company is in the running for a \$85m-856m helicopter order recently lost by Westland of the UK and is trying, probably unsuccessfully, to outbid Boeing of the U.S. from a \$400m-5500m (\$314.9m-2393.7m) Indian Airlines order.

The French Alstom company is a front runner with John Brown of the UK for two gas turbine power station projects worth \$65m and is rivaling Austria for a \$700m hydro-electric

power station project called Dul Hasti.

In the electronics area a French company, Sagem, is producing a new Indian telex machine. Bull is believed to be beating Control Data Corporation of the U.S. for a major public sector contract to develop an Indian main frame computer. France has also just signed an agreement with India for coal mining equipment and it has been bidding for a share of the work on a large cross-country natural gas pipeline.

Mr Gandhi's fascination for high technology will be met with a trip on France's high-speed train and a visit to a nuclear power station. France will offer technological and organisational help on a massive project personally launched by Mr Gandhi—the cleaning of India's sacred, but badly-polluted, River Ganges.

India sometimes finds that French technology is more expensive and less advanced than at first is apparent; factors which might cost CIT-Alcatel its new telephone factory contract.

There is no risk of supplies or spares being held back, however, as happens with U.S. contracts, nor are there limits on the sort of defence equipment that is available. So India values France as a friendly and reliable source of defence and other high technology, despite its alleged spying.

Rockwell in link-up with French group

By David Marsh in Paris

A FRANCO-U.S. tie-up in rocket technology for possible civil or military space applications has been agreed between Societe Europeenne de Propulsion, manufacturer of the engines for the Ariane rocket, and Rockwell, the American aerospace company.

The accord, announced at the Paris Air Show yesterday, centres on technology exchanges covering liquid rocket engines, SEP, which makes the solid-fuel engines for France's nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, will be teaming up with Rocketdyne, the Rockwell division which makes the main engines for the U.S. space shuttle, to examine future projects flowing from the U.S. and European space programmes.

SEP will be bringing to the agreement specific expertise in composite carbon and ceramic materials that it has developed for French military programmes, as well as a revolutionary non friction bearing, designed and produced by its specialist subsidiary Societe Mecanique de Magnetique.

SEP is assured of a big increase in its future workload as a result of the European programme to build a heavy duty Ariane 5 rocket for the 1990s.

Community threatens to revive suit against Japan

BY JUREK MARTIN IN TOKYO

THE European Community has told Japan that failure to resolve certain bilateral trading problems could lead to the revival of the EEC's suspended suit against Japan under Article 23 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The EEC had complained that Japan's trading practices had led to a structural and persistent trade surplus with the Community.

Mr Leslie Fielding, the director general for external affairs, last night described talks in Tokyo this week, the latest in a two-yearly round, as "the frankest exchange of views in which I have ever taken part" in nearly eight years of negotiating with Japan. He said he had reminded Japan that the GATT suit was "in the refrigerator not in the freezer". He was making "a veiled threat," not "a cold hard Japan 'uniquely responsible' for current trade problems."

But the EEC expects Japan to make a significant contribution to the handling of this awkward trade situation and to help sustain economic growth in the West.

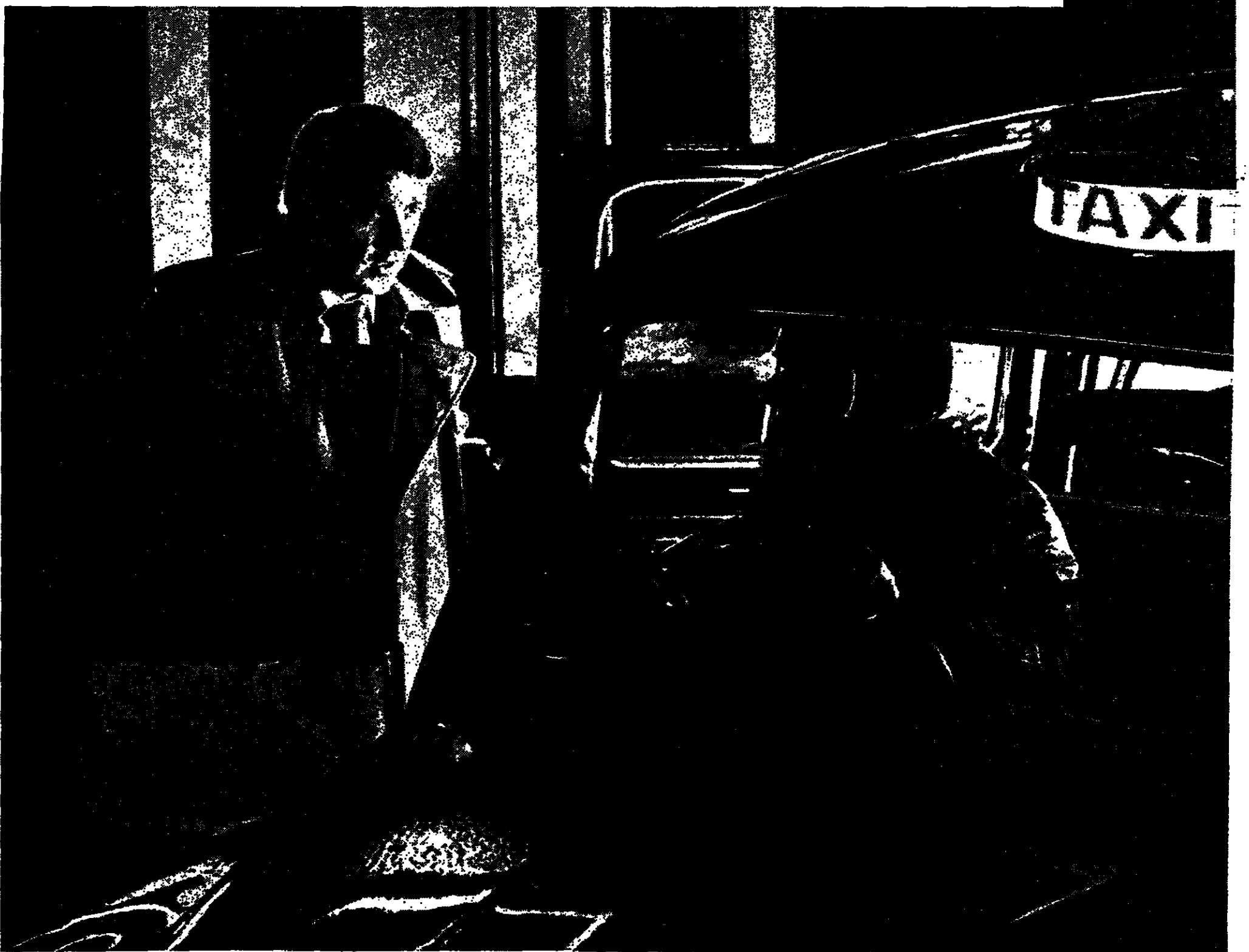
The EEC complaint, according to Mr Fielding, was the failure to make anything other than "very limited" and "inadequate" progress in the bilateral trade expansion committee.

He said he had pointed out that this body, designed to help solve the least intractable trade problems, had been set up last year at Japan's request and that the EEC had agreed to participate in it "as an alternative to continuing with the Article 23 GATT action."

But Japan had made only "moderately useful" offers on just two subjects: one is wine bottle labels, "if this is the speed at which very detailed trade problems can be settled, then the outlook for the three-year action programme is not very encouraging."

Japan is committed, under the premises it made April 8, to produce by next month such an action programme to increase imports. Sources in the EEC delegation here suggested that if next month's measures do not satisfy expectations then the whole future of the trade expansion committee would be in doubt.

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GM plans Japanese joint venture

By Carla Rapoport in Tokyo

NHK SPRING, one of the world's leading suspension systems manufacturers and General Motors of the U.S., are planning to set up a joint venture in Japan to make lightweight automotive suspension systems for GM cars.

The two companies have also reached a basic agreement to form car part joint ventures in the U.S. and Europe.

GM refused to comment yesterday but NHK Spring told reporters that the Japanese joint venture will be 55 per cent owned by NHK and 45 per cent by GM and will begin manufacturing next year.

GM recently revised its traditional policy of relying on in-house production for its car parts.

The Japanese joint venture will begin by producing suspension systems made of fibre reinforced plastics (FRP). NHK Springs claims these are about 50 per cent lighter than traditional suspension systems.

In future the venture may produce car seats and other components.

NHK Spring, one of the few independent manufacturers of suspension systems in Japan, had sales last year of ¥11bn (£237m) and pre-tax profits of ¥4bn.

Canadians confident on N-plant deal

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

ATOMIC ENERGY OF Canada and NEI Parsons of Britain are confident of winning a long-contested C\$1.2bn (£882m) contract to build a nuclear power station in Turkey.

Mr James Donnelly, Atomic Energy president, said that a Canadian government decision on financing is the only remaining barrier to the sale which would be the first order for a Candu heavy-water reactor since 1961. "We're down to the very short strokes," he said.

NEI Parsons will supply conventional turbine generating equipment for the project.

Mr Donnelly said that a "substantial agreement" has been reached on Turkish government proposals that the contractor should operate the plant and take an equity interest.

The Atomic Energy consortium has agreed to acquire a 60 per cent shareholding, recovering its investment through electricity sales. The remaining 40 per cent would be owned by the Turkish Electricity Authority.

The Turkish Government signed letters of intent over a year ago with the Canadian consortium and Kraftwerk Union, of West Germany, but the West Germans have apparently balked at becoming part-owners of the power station.

FN Moteurs backed for jet engine project

WHITNEY to undertake 3 per cent of the work. But the FN division needed backing to be able to participate in the programme.

The funds are being provided by Technofin which has been formed by public and private bodies in Belgium, including the country's largest financial holding company Societe Generale de Belgique. Technofin's equity totals Bfr 1.3bn (£18.6m), of which two-thirds is in the form of a subordinated loan. In addition, Belgium's largest bank, Societe Generale de Banque, has made a long-term loan to Technofin amounting to \$30m.

The programme involves the development and manufacture of PW4000 engines which will be used in long-haul aircraft such as Boeing 747s and Airbus A310s. Pratt and Whitney is part of United Technologies.

FN Moteurs has an agreement in principle with Pratt and

UK NEWS

Japanese risk trade backlash, says Tebbit

BY KEVIN BROWN

JAPAN FACES the prospect of a protectionist backlash unless it takes rapid action to end unfair trading practices, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said yesterday in the House of Commons.

Mr Tebbit made clear that the Government was still concerned about Japanese tactics in securing a £350m Turkish contract to build a second bridge across the Bosphorus. The contract went to a consortium including Mitsubishi Industries and Nippon Kokkan of Japan, despite a competitive bid by a consortium led by Trafalgar House, the British shipping and construction group.

The Trafalgar House bid was thought to have a good chance of landing the contract, but was put out of the running by the favourable credit terms offered by the Japanese. Mr Tebbit told MPs that the Japanese did not appear to have broken any undertakings or agreements in pursuing the contract.

But he added: "The point about the Bosphorus bridge contract, which I have sought to make both here

and in discussions with Japanese authorities, is that their dumping of cheap credit in order to obtain this contract is incompatible with the assurances and the policies announced by Mr Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, in which the Japanese are seeking to limit their trade surplus.

"This is a matter which is being taken up most forcibly with the Japanese authorities and it is a matter to which, unless they pay attention before very long, other countries will take protectionist measures against them. I hope they will draw back from the position they are in before it is too late."

MPs on both sides of the House were critical of Japanese trading tactics, and of the response by the British Government.

Mr Bryan Gould, a Labour trade spokesman, said the Japanese were pursuing "predatory" trade policies. "British companies seeking major contracts abroad should not be left defenceless against the Japanese and other foreign competitors," he said.

Olivetti takes closer control over Acorn

BY JASON CRISP

OLIVETTI, the Italian office equipment company, has stepped in to take a more direct control of Acorn, the troubled UK microcomputer group it rescued in February. Olivetti has a 49 per cent stake in Acorn.

Acorn announced yesterday that Mr Alex Ubaldi, a senior Olivetti director, has been appointed as its acting managing director. The move is unusual for Olivetti, which holds minority stakes in a number of high-technology groups and does not normally intervene directly in their management.

It is thought Olivetti has had to

step in at Acorn because of the difficulty in recruiting a managing director from outside, together with a number of pressing problems at the company. The co-founders, Mr Chris Curry and Mr Herman Hauser, who ran the company until the Olivetti rescue, are thought to have substantially reduced their involvement with the company.

Olivetti bought its stake for £10.4m in February after Acorn ran into serious financial difficulties. Dr Alex Reid, the chairman, was appointed acting chief executive in January and has continued to run the company since the rescue.

Rothschild named for gas offer

BY DOMINIC LAWSON

N. M. ROTHSCHILD, the merchant bank, is to advise the Government on the privatisation of British Gas. Kleinwort Benson, which handled the successful privatisation of British Telecom earlier this year, is likely to get the job of advising British Gas on its move into the private sector.

Rothschild succeeded against the competition of 15 other banks. Mr Michael Richardson, who will lead the bank's team on the offering, said yesterday: "The British Gas of-

fer will be the most exciting and challenging privatisation of them all."

The bank is at present advising the Ministry of Defence on the privatisation of the Royal Ordnance Factories which supply arms and munitions.

The key to the British Gas offer will be the nature of the regulatory system that the Government sets up to monitor pricing policy once it is in the private sector.

FIFTH TERMINAL AT HEATHROW RULED OUT FOR TIME BEING

Airport policy laid down for rest of century

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

STANSTED airport in Essex, north-east of London, is to be developed to its present capacity of about 20m passengers a year to a total of 15m a year, but in a phased manner. The first phase will carry development to between 7m and 8m passengers a year.

That is one of the main decisions emerging from the Government's long-awaited White Paper (policy statement) on airports, issued yesterday.

It also rejects - for the time being - plans for any fifth terminal at Heathrow, London. But the possibility of that will be kept under review.

The White Paper also contains these decisions:

1. No second runway at Gatwick airport, south of London. Proposals for a "commuter runway" will not be pursued.
2. Luton borough council, north of London, will be asked to make proposals to increase its airport's capacity to 10m passengers a year from the present 5m.
3. Manchester airport will be developed as a major regional hub airport, with the possibility of many new direct UK-US services using it.
4. Other regional airports are given little encouragement in the

White Paper. The Government says only that it will be ready to approve capital outlays for expansion and improvements when financially justified.

5. Privatisation of the British Airports Authority (BAA) is to go ahead as a single entity, but with each airport run as a separate company under a single holding company.

6. For other, local authority-owned airports, the Government wants to see as many as possible being transferred to private sector companies.

7. For business aircraft, Farnborough, Hampshire, will be developed by the Ministry of Defence to provide additional capacity. Access to RAF Northolt, north-west London will be facilitated.

8. The London Stnport for short take-off aircraft in London Docklands is to go ahead. It is hoped to find an alternative site for the Triggs Lane City Helipad on the Thames.

9. Scottish Highlands and Islands' airports owned and run by the Civil Aviation Authority will be formed into a separate single company.

10. Prestwick, south-west of Glasgow, stays as Scotland's international long-haul airport. The complementary roles of the other Scot-

tish airports will be retained.

The decisions, in the Government's view, amount to a coherent policy for the future development of UK airports, in the light of anticipated traffic demand through to the end of this century.

For the London area, terminal passengers by the year 2000 are expected to reach about 90m, compared with the current total of nearly 50m.

Commenting on the decision to go ahead with Stansted, the White Paper says that the Government agrees with the conclusions by Mr Graham Eyre, the Inspector of the public inquiry into Stansted, that it represented the best possible option for future airports serving London.

Accordingly, it has granted outline planning permission for that development to 15m passengers a year.

After the first phase, which will take Stansted to between 7m and 8m passengers a year, the timing and capacity of the further phases of development will depend on the rate of traffic growth.

The BAA estimates the total cost involved at some £400m at mid-1981 prices, although the cost of the first phase will be less.

The Government will invite the BAA to submit for approval invest-

ment proposals for the phased development plan. It will expect the BAA to show that the investment will earn an acceptable rate of return.

There will be a limit on aircraft movements at the airport set to correspond with the first phase. Later, increases in that limit will be subject to parliamentary approval.

The Government will invite British Rail to study the possibilities of a rail link into Stansted in co-operation with the BAA.

The White Paper recognises that, in time, "increases in demand may justify further development to utilise the full capacity of Stansted's runway (25m passengers a year), but this will be subject to further planning permission and to parliamentary approval for increases in the air transport movements limit."

The Government does not intend that a second main runway should be constructed at Stansted. It believes that the proposed limit on aircraft movements there will provide a valuable safeguard against such a development.

Commenting on Heathrow, the White Paper says the Government does not consider that a fifth terminal is desirable or necessary just yet.



Flotation boost at Wellcome

By Tony Jackson

WELLCOME FOUNDATION, the privately owned drugs group, has increased its pre-tax profits for the six months to February by 65 per cent from £47.7m to £78.5m. The increase, much larger than expected, is likely to increase the value of the company's stock market flotation planned for next January.

The greater part of the increase came from the U.S., now believed to account for about two thirds of Wellcome's profit. Zovirax, the anti-herpes drug, was made available for the first time in the U.S. in capsule form in February. Previously the drug had been available only as an ointment or as an intravenous solution.

In addition the Active range of cold cures was made available for the first time in the U.S. across-the-counter, as well as on prescription. Wellcome has devoted much effort to building up its marketing force for over-the-counter sales, and Mr Alfred Sheppard, Wellcome's chairman, said: "In the U.S. we are going to increase our marketing efforts further."

Currency movements added just over £50m to the value of sales.

Press Council sets out code for financial journalists

BY SUE CAMERON

THE PRESS Council, the body supported by the newspaper industry and which supervises press standards, yesterday dismissed as "undesirable" calls for new regulations to cover the professional conduct of financial journalists.

But it has published a declaration of principle that says financial journalists should not use information obtained through their jobs for their own profit. It has also produced a six-point set of voluntary guidelines. It has also warned journalists that they should not do any financial deals they would be ashamed of if their readers found out about them.

The council's declaration and its new, voluntary ethical code follows the Gower report and the Government's White Paper on investor protection. Professor Jim Gower, whose report was published last year, called for financial journalists and writers on tip sheets to be covered by the same regulations as those governing the registration and conduct of professional advisers.

The White Paper, which came out at the start of this year, said tip-sheet publishers should have to be authorised, but that bona fide newspapers should not require authorisation.

The main points in the council's guidelines, drawn up after consultation with editors and press organisations, are:

● Financial journalists should not be bound from owning shares or other securities. The council believes it would not be reasonable to demand a general ban.

● Financial journalists should not write about shares or securities in which they - or their close families - have an interest without first disclosing the interest to their editor or financial editor.

● Journalists should not buy or sell shares or securities - directly or through nominees or agents - if they have recently written about them or intend to write about them in the near future.

● Editors can "release" journalists from this obligation "should unforeseen circumstances arise."

● Financial journalists should not speculate by buying or selling shares or securities on a short-term basis.

● Journalists should never buy or sell shares or securities when they have obtained price-sensitive, unpublished information about them through their jobs. Nor should they pass such information to others.

The council said last night that it had decided against a "rigid national code dealing with the conduct of financial journalists." It felt the variety among newspapers and periodicals plus the differing roles of financial journalists on them, would mean that a rigid code would be unhelpful.

It gave a warning that it would be "ready to deal with complaints from any source that newspapers, periodicals or journalists have acted in breach of the spirit of this declaration or these guidelines." The council added that it might also "initiate inquiries into apparent breaches" even if it had received no complaints from outside.

Prof Gower said he had not yet had a chance to study the guidelines. His immediate personal reaction was that they were "helpful and a step in the right direction." But he added that as "the Press Council has no teeth (statutory authority) we will have to wait and see whether they will do any good."

Journalists on the Financial Times are already subject to a rule on ethical behaviour which is written into their contracts of employment. The rule is that anyone who gains information from their jobs before it is published, or who acts in any way that would jeopardise the FT's reputation for independent and unbiased comment will be regarded as guilty of misconduct and liable to instant dismissal.

Mr Geoffrey Owen, the editor of the FT, last night welcomed the council's declaration. He said it was in line with the FT's own view on what constitutes ethical behaviour. The FT would be adopting the council's guidelines for its own staff.

CBI attacks support for EEC directive on product liability

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE CONFEDERATION of British Industry (CBI) yesterday mounted a last-ditch attempt to block the British Government's support for the proposed EEC directive on liability for defective products.

The directive is expected to be approved at a meeting in Brussels later this month after 10 years of deliberation within the EEC.

The CBI believes that the proposed draft, which includes a compromise supported by the British Government, will cause serious problems for producers in Britain and elsewhere.

The CBI claims that the directive would increase business costs, especially insurance costs in high risk sectors such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals and aerospace.

In addition, the CBI believes the proposal might reduce the competitiveness of British companies, put some small companies out of business, lead to job losses, inhibit innovation and reduce consumer choice.

The CBI has consistently opposed the EEC draft directive in the decade it has been under discussion. It is annoyed that the Government is now prepared to accept the directive "without full consultation with industry."

The CBI maintains that the directive as it now stands would not lead to harmonised product liability laws throughout the EEC. This is because of a compromise proposal in the final draft of the directive, which would enable member countries to vary parts of the directive

and would allow for a review to take place after seven years.

The compromise proposal is based on the principle of strict liability, so the injured party would not have to prove fault. The manufacturer would have a defence if the defect could not have been discovered in the light of scientific and technological knowledge at the time the product was first sold.

The CBI says it is "amazed that the UK Government should be so ready to agree to something which would add extra cost burdens to industry, at a time when the Government itself is seeking to lessen the burdens it imposes in order to improve industrial competitiveness and the scope for job creation."

Peugeot enters British mini-van market

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

PEUGEOT is entering Britain's mini-van market for the first time with a version of its best-selling 205 car.

Citroën, a sister company to Peugeot, and Mazda of Japan are also launching light commercial vehicles. Their appeal will be mainly to owner-operators.

Peugeot 205 vans will be available with both petrol and diesel engines and a choice of two trim levels. They enter a market sector dominated by Austin Rover's Metro van and the Ford Fiesta van.

Peugeot claims that, while priced at about the same level - from £2,849 to £3,445 - the 205 van has a better specification and bigger payload than its rivals.

The French company hopes to sell between 3,000 and 4,000 a year compared with Metro van sales of 5,853 last year and Fiesta van registrations of 4,560.

While the Peugeot 205 van is very much a car with the rear seats tak-

en out and the windows filled in, the Citroën Visa van, while employing the same engines - the French group's 1,124cc petrol or 1.7-litre diesel - has a purpose-built box body built on the back.

As part of its marketing programme, Citroën will sell the vans painted only in red or white and calls them either Van Rouge or Van Blanc.

Mazda is constrained by the limitations on Japanese light commercial shipments to Britain contained in the gentlemen's agreement between the industries of the two countries. It has a light commercial quota of about 3,000 a year.

However, it is taking the opportunity to move its commercial vehicle range up-market by introducing a new pick-up truck to replace the existing B1800. The new B2000 pick-up has more power - from a new 2 litre engine - increased payload and additional load capacity,

Pit overtime ban ends

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

THE PIT supervisors' union Nacods yesterday announced it was calling off its national overtime ban immediately without putting to ballot the National Coal Board's undertakings on colliery closures.

The decision, reached by the Nacods executive after talks at the board's headquarters, angered some union members who believed they had been given a categorical assurance that a fresh ballot would be held.

One regional official said: "I have been preaching this from platforms

when I have been out selling the ban to the membership. We'll want to know the reason why it has been called off without a ballot."

Mr Ken Sampey, the union's president, who had himself said there would be a ballot on calling off the ban, said the executive had decided by a majority to take the decision straight away.

The rules required a ballot only in the case of strikes. Mr Sampey said. In the executive's view, the NCB had met all the points raised by the union.

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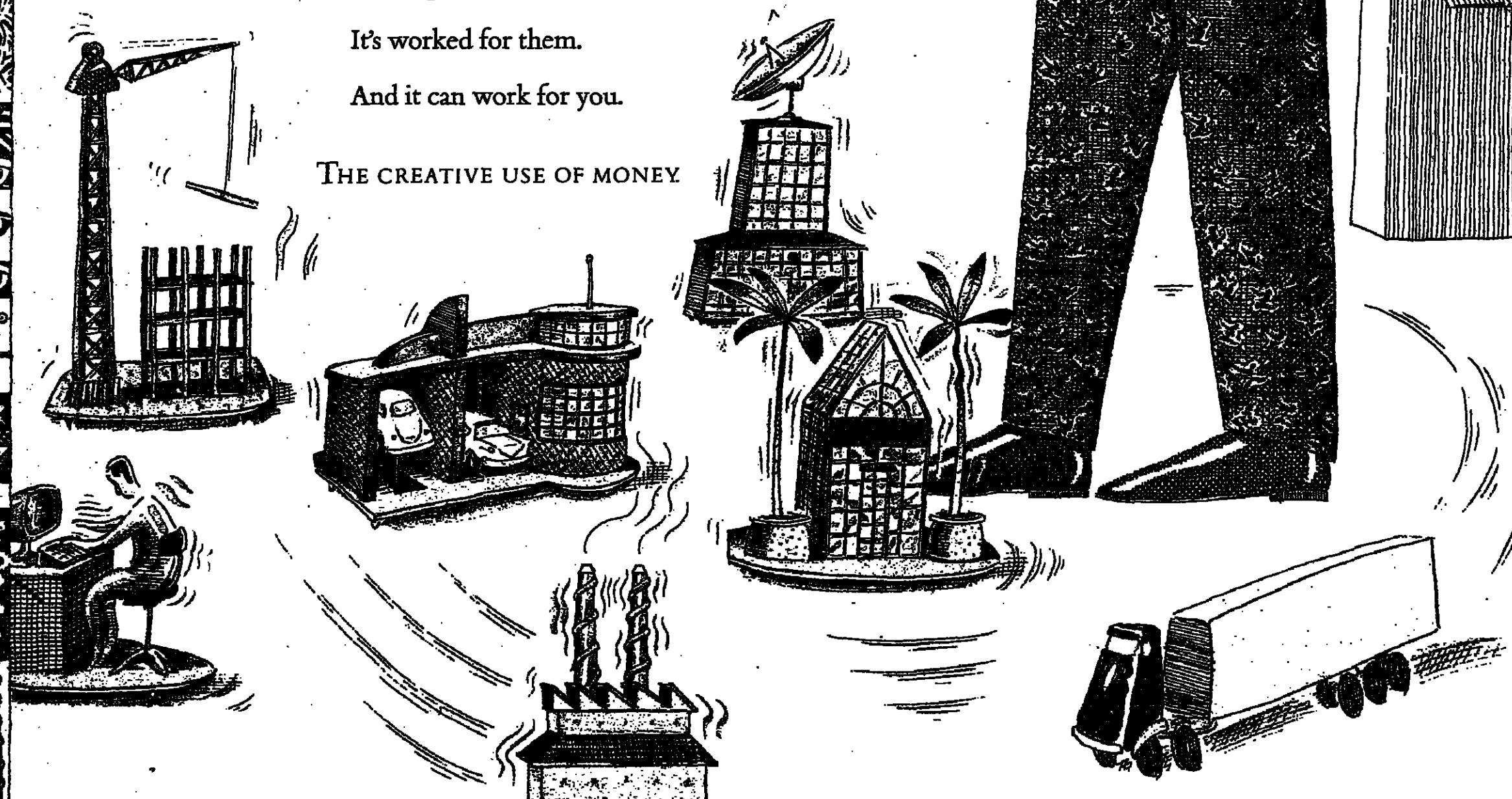
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WORLD OIL BUSINESS

Why Arco is slimming down to its 'crown jewels'

By William Hall in New York



WHAT IS Arco up to? It is a question taxing many rival oil men and Wall Street analysts as they ponder the most dramatic voluntary restructuring yet announced by a major international oil company. At the end of April Atlantic Richfield (Arco), sometimes regarded as the "eighth sister" of the international oil business, unveiled a far-reaching plan to turn itself into a smaller but more profitable company. Wall Street greeted the plan enthusiastically and Arco's share price leapt by close to a quarter in a matter of days. But the plan has puzzled many in the oil industry.

Briefly, the company is writing off \$1.2bn, or virtually all of its earnings this year, to cover the losses on the sale of the bulk of its non-oil operations. It is selling about two-thirds of its service stations and drastically shrinking the size of its downstream operations, cutting back sharply on its oil exploration spending, and axing around 13 per cent of its remaining workforce.

This is the second write-off the company has taken in less than

a year. Last August it wrote off \$785m after tax to cover losses on the sale of most of its Anaconda metals and mining businesses, an ill-fated \$700m acquisition made when oil prices were soaring in the late 1970s. To soften the blow to shareholders, Arco is increasing its annual dividend by a third and buying back close to a third of its shares for \$4bn, transforming itself along the way into one of the most heavily leveraged oil companies in the world. Its debt to capitalisation ratio will jump from 35 per cent to close on 60 per cent.

Everyone in the oil business these days is talking of the need to slim down their operations and "enhance shareholder value." But no major oil company has gone anywhere near so far as Arco has with its plans

to restructure its business. Is Arco trying to protect itself and its giant stake in Alaska's rich oil reserves from an unfriendly corporate predator like Mr T. Boone Pickens, the maverick Texas oil man? Is the company more frightened than its competitors about the downside potential for oil prices?

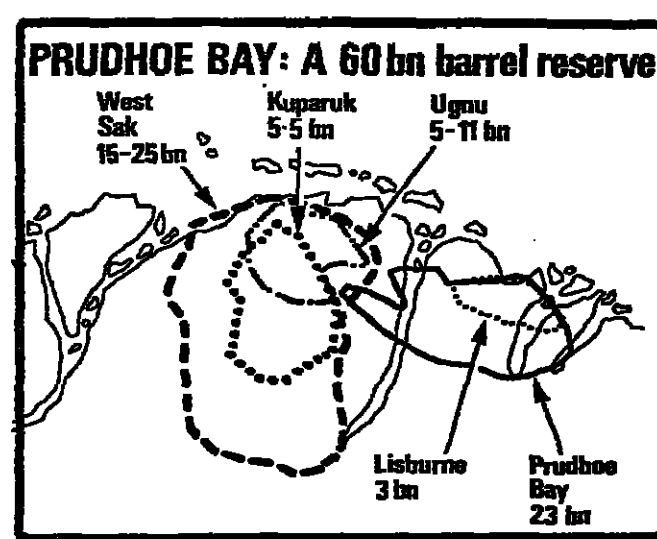
These questions and many more have been going through the minds of observers as they watch one of the more successful and better managed oil companies in the world reposition itself for the next decade.

To listen to Mr Bill Kieschnick, Arco's 62-year-old chief executive explain what he is doing, one could be forgiven for thinking that it was one of Mr Pickens' disciples doing the talking. It is not just the Texas accent. Unlike many oil industry veterans, Mr Kieschnick joined the old Atlantic Refining Company as a chemical engineer in 1947, he admits that the oil industry is over-capitalised and has not faced up adequately to the changed environment in which it finds itself.

"I will readily concede that we are less attractive as a takeover target," notes Mr Kieschnick, but he stresses that if his major objective had been to make his company invulnerable to takeovers he would have designed a very different package. Like many oil men, he feels strongly that Unocal and Phillips Petroleum have had to pay a formidably high price to fight off raids by Mr Pickens. They have been forced to do things they did not want to do and are already being labelled the "walking wounded" by rival oil company executives.

Arco has always had a reputation as a company which has not been afraid to challenge the oil industry's conventional wisdoms. When the giants of the industry had given up hope of finding oil in Alaska, Arco—then a small regional oil company—persevered and in 1968 struck oil at Prudhoe Bay, the largest oil field ever discovered in North America.

A decade later it gambled on being able to transfer its oil and gas expertise into the mining business via the acquisition of Anaconda. When it realised that it had made a mistake it was far



Mr Bill Kieschnick

prices," Mr Kieschnick states. Arco accepts it will not be able to match last year's performance when it replaced 17 per cent of its domestic crude oil and natural gas liquids production of 600,000 barrels a day, but it is confident that it can maintain and probably increase its production and 60n barrel reserve base.

Having accepted that its reduced exploration and production programme was not going to damage the company over the long term, Arco then took the axe to its downstream refining and marketing operations. Unlike most of the U.S. majors, Arco does not subscribe to the industry view that downstream operating margins will recover any time soon.

Consequently, Arco is undertaking an orderly withdrawal from petroleum refining and marketing east of the Mississippi and concentrating on its more profitable West Coast operations, where it has a powerful market position and faces less competition.

The final major repositioning for the company has taken place in its \$3bn a year chemical operations. It has sold the bulk of its low margin commodity petrochemical operations and put the remainder, along with its 233,000 barrels a day Houston refinery, into Lyondell Petrochemical, a new company. Arco has written down the assets of the company and hopes that it will develop into a low-cost merchant refiner-chemical producer. The rest of the business is concentrated on proprietary technology and specialty chemicals where Arco sees real long-term growth potential.

Mr Kieschnick describes the key elements of the new slimmer Arco as "crown jewel operations." By eliminating the loss-makers it has reduced the drag on its earnings. This, together with the cuts in exploration, staff and overheads should result in an annual cost savings of \$500m.

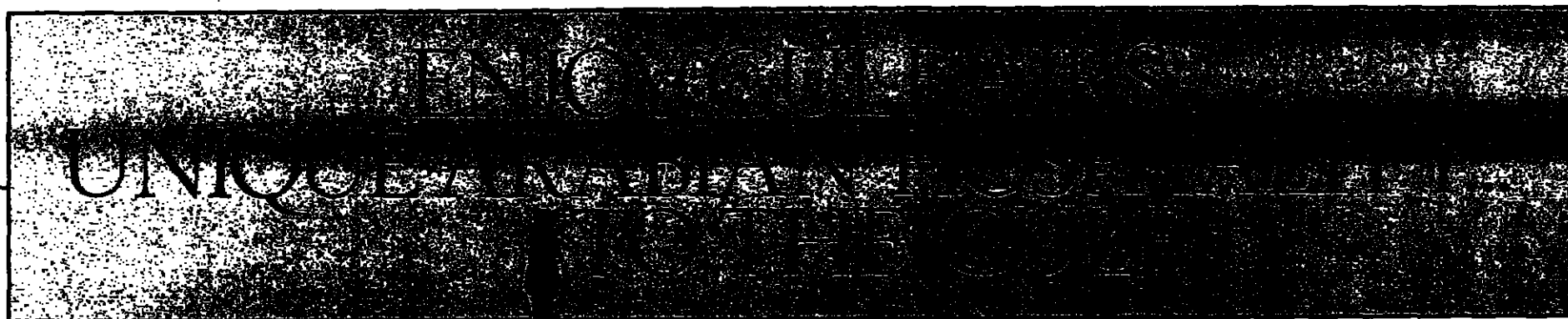
While the cost-cutting is an important part of the new Arco, Mr Kieschnick also stresses intangible benefits such as the changes in the company's character that will follow on from these moves. Any time you have a company which is not burdened with a lot of loss controls, it can face the future more boldly. Each time you have a company with an array of winning operations, success seems to build on itself.

Previous articles in this series appeared on May 23 and June 3.

THE CHANGING SHAPE OF ATLANTIC RICHFIELD

| | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985* (pre-structure) | 1985* (post-structure) |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Net income (\$m) | 1,592 | 1,631 | 1,732 | 1,591 | 1,139 | 1,390 | 1,640 |
| Return on equity (%) | 24.4 | 20.8 | 18.7 | 15.3 | 13.4 | — | — |
| Longterm debt (\$m) | 2,889 | 3,239 | 3,499 | 3,543 | 3,485 | 3,500 | 8,700 |
| Cap. spending (\$m) | 3,075 | 3,711 | 4,216 | 3,543 | 3,485 | 3,585 | 2,900 |
| Proved oil reserves (billion barrels) | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 | — | — |

* 1985 figures are Arco estimates.



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Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, this Stock is issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure, and that no such omission shall render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND

4th June 1985

UK NEWS

BNFL DENIES FIVE CHARGES

Nuclear waste management called 'sloppy'

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) was accused yesterday of displaying a haphazard and generally casual style of management in the way it disposed of radioactive nuclear waste from its Sellafield plant in Cumbria, north-west England, in November 1983.

Opening the prosecution of the state-owned BNFL at Carlisle Crown Court, Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that those responsible for the disposal of nuclear waste were required by law to act to a very high standard of competence.

"We say BNFL fell short of that," Mrs Grindrod told the jury of eight men and four women.

"Hasty decisions and sloppy management won't do. That is what we say happened in November 1983."

BNFL, which could face unlimited fines if convicted, has pleaded not guilty to two charges under the 1960 Radioactive Substances Act and three under the 1965 Nuclear Installations Act.

It has pleaded guilty to a fourth offence under the 1965 Act concerned with the keeping of records.

Mrs Grindrod emphasised that the case concerned only events in November 1983 when radioactive material was discharged from Sellafield into the Irish Sea, contaminating nearby beaches.

"The issue, she said, was whether BNFL was in breach of controls imposed on it in its management of Sellafield, in particular controls on the movements and disposal of nuclear waste."

The company has pleaded not guilty to:

Discharging highly radioactive matter and liquids into the sea "to such amount and at such a rate that radiation exposure ... was not as low as was reasonably achievable."

Allowing highly radioactive material to enter a transfer pipe to a sea discharge pipeline without ensuring "so far as was reasonably practicable" that there was adequate means of preventing it having to be flushed to sea if it became lodged in the transfer pipe.

Discharging highly radioactive matter and liquids to sea and failing to ensure "that any person in the vicinity of the end of the discharge pipe or using adjacent waters of adjacent beaches" was informed of the fact and of the resulting increased risk of exposure, "thereby failing to take all reasonable steps to minimise the exposure of persons to radiation."

Failing to keep on-site adequate records of the amount of all radioactive material stored or accumulated.

Failing to keep records of radioactive material discharged to the sea.

The company pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to keep adequate records of its operations.

Mrs Grindrod said that during the annual shutdown and cleaning out of the Sellafield plant, non-liquid radioactive waste, which would not normally be discharged into the sea, had got into the wrong place and had been discharged.

Something had gone wrong and in an attempt to recover the situation BNFL had lost control, she claimed.

Staff had been unsure precisely what, and how much, had been discharged. But they had known that something unusual had happened, in which they had put into the sea material that would behave differently from the usual liquid waste - material that attached itself to flotsam and came on to the beach.

Mrs Grindrod said that, although authorised to discharge radioactive waste, BNFL was bound by a condition requiring it to limit discharges so as to ensure that the exposure to radiation was "as low as reasonably achievable" - the so-called "Alara condition."

The Crown alleged that that condition had been breached in November 1983 when the beaches were contaminated.

Mrs Grindrod said that BNFL had not been in a position to fill in the necessary discharge records because it had not known how much had been discharged. There was a dispute about the amount between the company's employees.

The hearing, which is expected to last at least six weeks, continues today.

Matsushita plans European research lab

BY RAYMOND SNOODY IN OSAKA

MATSUSHITA Electric, the world's largest consumer electronics company, is planning to set up its first European research and development laboratory in the UK.

If the project goes ahead, it is believed that it might be the first substantial research and development (R & D) investment by a Japanese company in Europe.

Matsushita, which this year will spend a total of \$900m on R & D, is already looking for a Briton to run the laboratory. Dr Shigeru Hayakawa, the company's senior managing director for R & D, said he had

asked Matsushita's subsidiary Panasonic UK to find a person of the right quality to lead the operation.

"I am thinking of opening the laboratory in the UK, but the problem is to find a good manager to run that operation," he said.

Dr Hayakawa said he had been considering siting the laboratory in West Germany but now thought that the UK would be the best location.

The Japanese company already has research operations in the U.S. and Taiwan.

The possible areas of research include new media, such as cable and satellite television, office automation and computer software. Matsushita believes that most of those involved should be British.

"It would be meaningless if we send many people from Japan. If we are to have such a laboratory in the UK I believe that most of the people should be from the UK," Dr Hayakawa said.

Dr Hayakawa also said in an interview that he believed Matsushita had successfully developed the technology that would eventually make possible the manufacture of

three-dimensional integrated circuits of many times the capacity of anything presently feasible.

The Japanese scientist said he believed that the company would be able to put 5-megabit devices - 5m pieces of information on a single chip - into commercial use within three or four years. He believed 16-megabit devices could be produced in five years time.

Such devices, Dr Hayakawa said, could be used to process images for high-definition television pictures and, in the longer term, could produce solid-state tape

recorders the size of a fingertip with no moving parts.

"We think we are ahead but until other companies publish we do not know," said Dr Hayakawa.

The Matsushita research executive said that the company intended to develop its own capacity in computer memory devices. But in other areas of computer technology, such as central processing units, Matsushita was talking with Ibm, the Thorn-EMI subsidiary, Philips of the Netherlands and Intel and Motorola of the U.S. about possible future co-operation.

THE GOVERNMENT has awarded public funds of £1.2m to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW). Britain's second-largest union, as reimbursement for the costs of its internal ballots. The move is likely to open fresh divisions over the Trades Union Congress (TUC) blanket opposition to that law.

Acceptance by the AUEW of the money is in clear defiance of TUC policy - the AUEW is the first union to break ranks on the issue - and places the TUC's formal opposition to the law under its most severe strain since its adoption in 1982.

For the Government, the move is an important breakthrough for ministers' hopes that unions will comply with the law. Welcoming it last night, the Department of Employment said: "It marks a step forward in the progress of the Government's wider programme to ensure that trade unionists really do have the opportunity to participate in their union's activities."

Leaders of the AUEW this week received notification from the Government's Certification Officer, who has statutory responsibility for overseeing unions' internal affairs, of his approval of the union's application for funds under the Employment Act 1980.

The approval of funds totalling just under £1.2m covers more than 150 ballots - the majority of them elections of AUEW officials - dating back as far as March 1981. It is by far the largest single approval so far made under the Act, and far outweighs the £196,633 previously spent in total under the first four years of the scheme's operation.

The Certification Office is also considering a second TUC application, from the electricians' union EETPU, which, like the AUEW, is on the right of the union movement.

The AUEW's application was sanctioned by a membership ballot vote in the union which on a high poll showed 12-1 in favour. Although the application ran into opposition at this year's AUEW annual conference, a second ballot on the issue will cover only the principle, and future applications, and that successful claim will remain unaffected by its outcome.

A placing or a single buyer sale would have raised more cash for ITT. In the past few years, there have been a number of life companies sold by their owners, but in each case the sale was to a single purchaser.

Two life companies, Lloyd's Life and Providence Capitol, are in the course of changing ownership in such a manner.

Abbey Life, which suffered during the early 1970s in the period after the departure of Mr Weinberg, has shown considerable growth in new life and pensions business over the past five years. Its new business in 1984 was exceeded only by that of the established life companies, Prudential and Legal and General.

Applications open on Wednesday, June 12, and dealings are scheduled to start on June 19.

ITT took the decision to make a public flotation of Abbey Life, rather than a placing or even a sale to another purchaser, after a feasibility

LOSS OF 800 JOBS AFTER REJECTION OF UNIONS' PROPOSALS

British Steel to close Tinsley Park plant

BY IAN RODGER

BRITISH STEEL (BSC) has rejected union proposals for saving the Tinsley Park engineering steels plant in Sheffield, Yorkshire. It is proceeding with its plan to close the plant with the loss of 800 jobs.

BSC, which is state-owned, proposed closing the works in March but gave the unions an opportunity to present alternative proposals.

The unions suggested a political solution, involving retention of the economy and the introduction of selective import controls, so as to achieve a 25 per cent increase in demand for engineering steels over the next three years.

Engineering steels are used mainly in the motor industry. Demand has slumped in recent years with the decline of the UK motor industry.

Mr John Pennington, managing director of BSC Special Steels, said yesterday in a letter confirming the closure decision that the prospect of achieving a 25 per cent increase in demand was "remote". No money was available to subsidise Tinsley Park until it happened and the plant's operating costs were about £25m a year.

Moreover, if demand did rise by 25 per cent, the remaining BSC plants could meet it by working 20 shifts a week, instead of the 15 shifts planned when Tinsley Park closed.

Mr Pennington said that protectionist measures "would have to be approached with extreme caution in view of the 2½ ratio of exports to imports in the UK engineering steels sector. In the circumstances, regrettably, the decision has to be taken to close Tinsley Park and

there is no alternative to confirming today the closure proposal."

Mr Roy Bishop, divisional officer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "It's clear that British Steel does not want the ideas examined at the highest level."

BSC hoped the required redundancies could be achieved from volunteers not only at Tinsley Park but also at the nearby Rotherham and Stocksbridge works and the Special Steels Division headquarters in Sheffield.

Tinsley Park is the latest in a long series of closures in the engineering steels sector. In 1981, Dupont closed its Llanelli works in South Wales and BSC closed the London Works and Round Oak Steel Works in the West Midlands. In 1983, Lorrho closed its Hadfields subsidiary in Sheffield and early

last year F.H. Lloyd closed its Dudley works in the West Midlands.

BSC and Guest Keen and Nettlefolds are the only remaining producers and they are awaiting government approval of a plan to merge their engineering steels businesses.

The Lucas Girling vehicle components group yesterday announced plans to reduce the workforce in its South Wales factories by 700-800 over the next five years to improve competitiveness and secure their long-term future, Robin Reeves writes.

The Welsh component factories, located at Cymbran and Pontypool, employ nearly 4,000 workers.

Assurances have been given to trade union representatives that there will be no compulsory redundancies.

Abbey Life offer values group at £504m

BY ERIC SHORT

THE PUBLIC offering of shares in Abbey Life Group, Britain's second largest linked life company, will involve 135m shares at a price of 180p each, valuing the whole group at £504m.

The offer was launched yesterday by S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank, which is arranging the sale of 48.2 per cent of the group for Abbey Life's parent, the US conglomerate ITT.

The parent, which will receive £243m from the sale before expenses, is planning to retain the other 51.8 per cent. The sale was announced by ITT earlier this year as part of a \$1.7bn (£1.38bn) cash-raising exercise.

Abbey Life was founded some 24 years ago by Mr Mark Weinberg, now chairman and chief executive of Hambro Life - the last life company to come to the market and now part of BAT Industries.

It was a pioneer in the selling of linked life assurance - contracts that invest in the units of an underlying fund - in contrast to traditional life products, which offer guaranteed benefits plus bonus additions.

Abbey Life, which suffered during the early 1970s in the period after the departure of Mr Weinberg, has shown considerable growth in new life and pensions business over the past five years. Its new business in 1984 was exceeded only by that of the established life companies, Prudential and Legal and General.

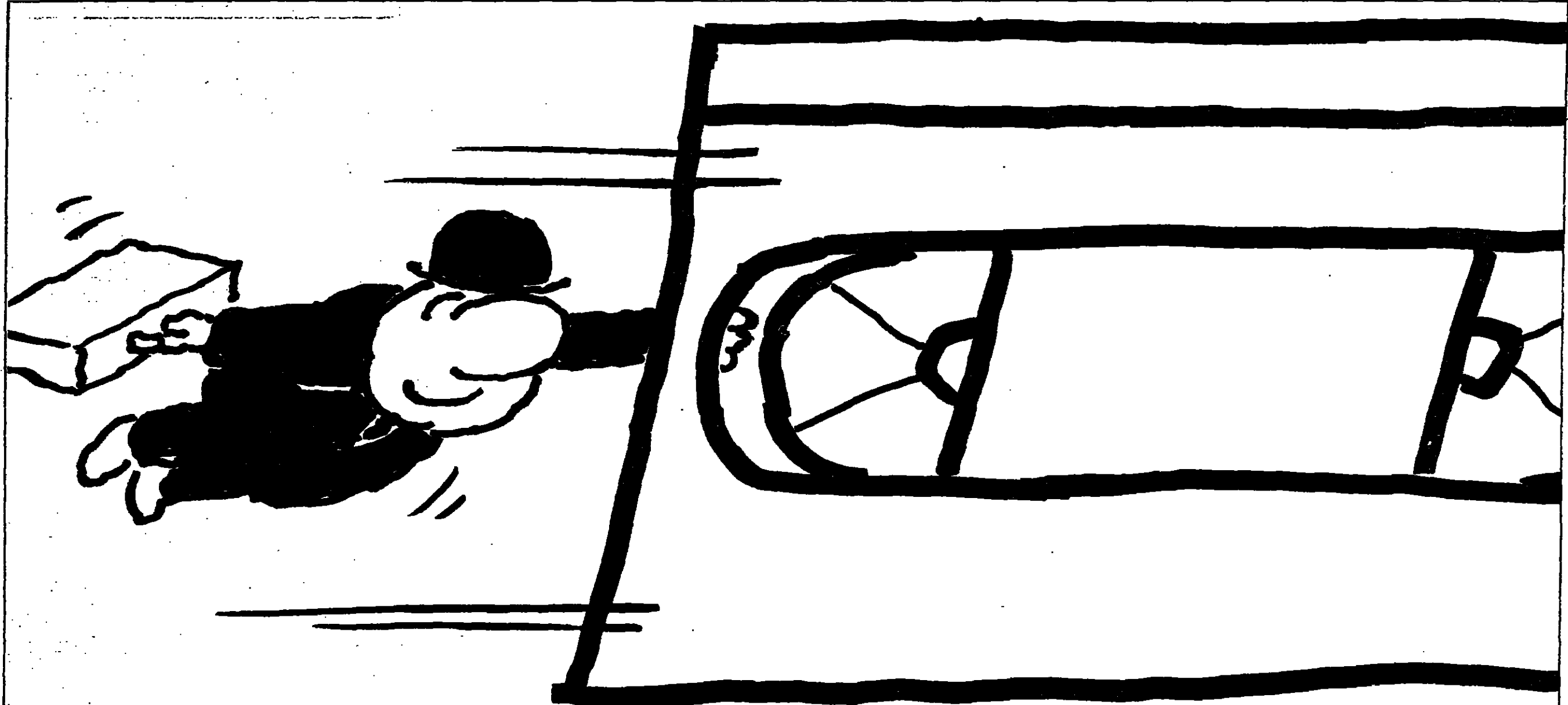
Applications open on Wednesday, June 12, and dealings are scheduled to start on June 19.

ITT took the decision to make a public flotation of Abbey Life, rather than a placing or even a sale to another purchaser, after a feasibility

study by S. G. Warburg, which is handling the offer in conjunction with stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman.

A placing or a single buyer sale would have raised more cash for ITT. In the past few years, there have been a number of life companies sold by their owners, but in each case the sale was to a single purchaser.

Two life companies, Lloyd's Life and Providence Capitol, are in the course of changing ownership in such a manner.



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Mysteries of the executive selection trade

BY MICHAEL DIXON

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JOB CANDIDATES who see themselves as prepared for anything recruiters might get up to, had perhaps better think again.

Even those who don't turn a hair at being assessed by astrology or body-measurement might well be taken aback by some of the "more obscure" selection dodges listed in a survey report, published today, by the Paul R. Ray International executive search consultancy. They include "Nipp tests," the "Kostick PAPI," and "work assimilations."

As well as sounding menacing, they were complete mysteries to me despite more than 12 years as a commentator on recruiting rituals. Fortunately Ken Miller, of London's Independent Assessment and Research Centre, soon cleared up two of them.

The Kostick PAPI—which stands for "perception and preference inventory"—is a measure of the personality type created by an American called Kostick, the rights to which apparently now belong to PA Management Consultants. As for Nipp tests, any chauvinist who thinks they must have originated in Japan is wrong.

They are IQ-style measures developed by Britain's late lamented National Institute of Industrial Psychology, and now in the charge of the National

Foundation for Educational Research. Work assimilations still remained a mystery to Dr Miller and the Jobs Column alike.

Since in my book to assimilate is the same as to absorb, I guessed that they must have been imported from France where "a manager" has long been defined as "a machine for crushing work." I reasoned therefore that work assimilation tests must consist of leading would-be executives with heavier and heavier dollops of work to see how much of it they could take.

(Not altogether humane, perhaps, but surely no worse in principle than the stress interviews perpetrated by some sadistic recruiters.)

Then luckily Bob Worcester of Market Research and Opinion International got back from Copenhagen and telephoned me. It just happens that Mori did the survey work underlying the Paul R. Ray International report which lists the obscure selection dodges.

He explained that "work assimilations" is his name—which he insists is the right one—for the kind of tests that everyone else seems to call work simulations.

The best known example is probably the so-called basket exercise developed by the psychologist Norman Frederiksen. It confronts execu-

tive candidates with a pile of letters, memos, notes on telephone calls and suchlike bunnies, along with an outline of the candidates' supposed role in an imaginary organisation. The test is how well they cope with the managerial challenge represented by the bits of paper.

While some recruiters set great store by the exercise, follow-up research has shown that it is no more than weekly and erratically predictive of executive performance in real life.

So it seems that none of the three menacing-sounding selection tests holds any out of the ordinary fears for hard pressed candidates. But I fear the same cannot be said for another of the listed dodges.

It is to give candidates "several glasses of wine at lunchtime." While I cannot offer advice on how to pass that test—it might well be that preferring water, for instance, would constitute failure—at least readers will be forewarned not to mistake a prospective employer's hospitality for generosity.

But the clearing up of the mysterious selection devices still leaves a number of other mysteries outstanding in the disclosures of Ray International's report, whose main purpose was to find out what employing organisations think about the personal-approach recruitment methods used by exe-

cutive search consultants in general.

As I said, the report is based on research done independently by Mori. The survey covered the personnel chiefs of 141 leading organisations in Britain, including half a dozen banks—which raises a somewhat personal mystery.

Eight weeks ago I reported, on what seemed to me sufficient evidence, that banks in the City of London particularly felt they were not getting a fair deal from the executive search fraternity. I quoted one of the eight City people I consulted as saying:

"Very few of them generate any sort of feeling of being concerned to give value for money. They charge very substantial fees—usually 30 per cent of salary—most if not all of which they claim irrespective of whether they find the right candidate."

The Mori survey found entirely to the contrary. Of the sample of companies as a whole about 80 per cent replied that they were at least fairly satisfied with the service they had received from executive searchers, including all six of the banks.

If any readers with first-hand knowledge of banking matters can offer guidance on which of the two contradictory views is the truer, I'd be grateful to have it.

A further mystery arises from executive searchers' fairly low rate of success in filling the jobs assigned to them. Here the evidence is not just from the Mori survey (copies of which are available free from Ray International's Ian Christians at 58 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LL; telephone 01-408 2229). For it just so happens that Business Development Consultants (International) has also just published a survey of 188 employers' views of executive search.

Mori's findings imply that the headhunters succeed in bringing home the required executive bacon only about half the time. The other survey puts the success rate higher at 62 per cent.

Such less than impressive results surely chime oddly with the evidence that the bulk of the searchers' clients are at least fairly satisfied with the services received. The level of satisfaction indicated by the Business Development Consultants' inquiry is even higher than the Ray report's 80 per cent plus.

Odder still is that only a minority of the samples of either survey—21 per cent of BDC's but only 8 per cent of the other—seemed seriously concerned about the executive searchers' charges. These, as we know, often amount to about a third of the first year's salary

for the job in question, at least some of which is payable even if the post is not filled.

That contrasts sharply with the charges of concern specialists in finding top-grade secretaries, which seem to range between 15 and 18 per cent of salary all in, payable only if the right recruit is found.

I find it hard to see how searching out talented executives can be so much more difficult than finding first-rate secretaries, many of whom are largely employed in all but name as the personal manager to their so-called boss. Perhaps employing organisations should start asking why what they get from a top secretarial agency for 15 per cent should cost twice as much from headhunters.

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Het Kantoor Londen van onze Bank zoekt voor deze functie iemand met een ruime bankervaring en kennis van het Nederlandse en Engelse bankstelsel, lokaal zowel als internationaal.

Dit houdt bij voorkeur in: kennis van het internationale betalingsverkeer en inwissel, basiskennis van valutatransacties en Dokumentaire Akkreditieven, en goede bekendheid met de procedures inzake het voeren van rekeningen voor Nederlandse en Engelse bedrijven.

De succesvolle kandidaat zal verantwoordelijk zijn voor de dagelijkse leiding van de afdeling Account Services en direct contacten onderhouden met de cliënten van de Bank. Een goede communicatieve vaardigheid zowel in het Engels als het Nederlands is derhalve van essentieel belang.

Indien u de ambitie heeft uw eigen afdeling te leiden, en de energie en het enthousiasme kunt opbrengen een daadwerkelijke bijdrage aan ons bedrijf te leveren, verzoeken wij u schriftelijk (in het Engels) te reflecteren, onder bijsluiting van een volledig curriculum vitae, aan:

Mr. John Parker, Head of Personnel, Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V. 101 Moorgate, LONDON EC2M 6SB

amro bank
amsterdam-rotterdam bank nv

BADENOCH & CLARK

STOCKBROKING INSTITUTIONAL SALES To £25,000

Several of our clients, some of the most prestigious stockbroking names in the City, have requirements for talented young Sales Executives to join their successful and expanding teams. Interested applicants will have gained two years experience with a recognised firm either in sales or possibly in research, and should have the character and ambition to further their career in a more dynamic environment. There are positions available both for Generalists and for those who have and wish to maintain sectoral responsibilities. The requirements are both UK and International duties. These positions can offer both attractive career prospects and remuneration to the right candidate.

ACCOUNT OFFICER c.£17,000 + Bens

Our client, a major Accepting house well placed to expand, is seeking a high calibre lending officer to supplement a team in its Banking division.

The successful candidate will be a graduate in his/her mid-twenties with two years experience of Corporate Banking, gained either in a Merchant Bank or possibly in a prestigious International Bank. You will be able to display a strong credit background and a facility with loan documentation, and you should wish to develop your marketing flair in this progressive organisation.

If you would like to discuss these positions further please contact Christopher Lawless or Stuart Clifford.

Financial Recruitment Specialists
16-18 New Bridge St. London EC4V 6AU
Telephone 01-583 0073

ACCOUNTANT £16,000 neg

RESEARCH ANALYST £15,000

TRAINEE MARKETING OFFICER £13,000

For further details of these and our other current vacancies please call Mike Stundell Jones on 01-236 1113 (24 hours)

**PORTMAN
RECRUITMENT
SERVICES**

SALES MANAGERS

A finance house specialising in consumer credit, particularly in credit cards for the retail market, seeks to recruit three sales managers.

Successful candidates must have had at least 10 years' wide experience of instalment credit, be knowledgeable, articulate and dynamic in their ability to seek new business. It is essential they are self-motivated and enjoy the challenge of selling in a highly competitive environment.

These posts offer a basic commencing salary of c. £15,000 p.a., a performance-related bonus, car and other benefits.

Candidates, who will be aged 35/45, should write in confidence to:

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
CLUB 24 LIMITED
Claypit Lane, Leeds LS2 8DY

A leading (Saudi Arabian) financial institution in the City requires

SENIOR CREDIT ANALYST

for its Credit Department. The ideal candidate will have 3-4 years' experience in the assessment of corporate, bank and sovereign risk gained in a professional and preferably U.S. international banking environment. He or she will be responsible for assessing the finest quality risks with emphasis on trade-related business. Borrowers cover a wide range of industries and banks worldwide. An excellent package of benefits is offered with salary commensurate with experience.

Please write enclosing CV to Box A9030, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

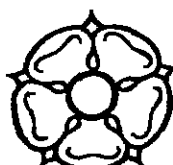
BRADFORD HEALTH AUTHORITY

This is the principal post in the Authority which serves a largely urban community in West Yorkshire with a population of 336,000 and an annual budget of £58m.

Management responsibility will be to the Authority for the effective deployment of available resources in support of health and patient care; for implementing its policies and for its financial performance.

Essential requirements are: a proven record of general management success in a large organisation involving control of a substantial annual budget, high qualities of dynamic leadership, and the ability to implement plans, initiate change, motivate others and command the respect of multi-professional colleagues.

Salary and conditions of service will be commensurate with experience.



Yorkshire
Health
Region

Detailed applications marked
'In Confidence - District General Manager
Appointment' to the Chairman:
County Councillor J Royston-Moore CBE,
Bradford Health Authority, Daisy Bank,
108 Duckworth Lane, Bradford,
West Yorkshire BD9 5PL by 21st June 1985.

Investment Manager

Personal Portfolio Management

Dunbar and Company Limited, part of the highly successful Allied Hambro Group, was established 15 years ago to provide a specialist range of private banking services. Over the last decade, both our Banking and Investment Management divisions have grown substantially and an unbroken record of profit has been achieved.

We are currently looking for an Investment Manager to join Dunbar Fund Management Limited, which manages investments in investment management for private individuals, trusts and institutional funds.

Working as part of a highly experienced team reporting to the Managing Director, you will have full responsibility for managing a portfolio of clients on a discretionary basis. You will be able to develop new business opportunities and to enhance the company's services to potential clients.

Successful candidates will probably be in their thirties without least 10 years experience in investment management in a fund management company or in the client department of a stockbroker, merchant bank or insurance company. You should be forward thinking, commercially aware with an enthusiasm for management and able to show considerable initiative. Highly developed communication skills are vital to this role.

In addition to a competitive salary dependent on your experience, we offer a contributory pension scheme, a company share ownership scheme and a profit sharing scheme.

If you're looking for an opportunity where you'll have excellent prospects for career progression, please write in strictest confidence, enclosing a detailed cv to Lesley Holmes, Group Personnel Officer, Allied Hambro Financial Management, 9-15 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1, or telephone her on 01-437 7844 for an application form and further information.

Share in our success

ALLIED HAMBRO
THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

Business Systems Analysts

City

Our client, a major international organisation, has recently introduced IBM System 38 into its operations and developed revised information and control systems. This change has resulted in the need to recruit a number of experienced business analysts.

These important positions will be concerned with the assessment and analysis of business work flows, the identification of data entities, and their consequent inter-relationships and relevance to broader corporate strategies.

Preferably aged 28-38, candidates should have several years' - preferably post-graduate - experience in Management Accounting, Operational Research or Production Planning. A background of computer analysis and design is essential, and a knowledge of the IBM System 38 architecture and related techniques would be an advantage.

An excellent remuneration package will reflect both experience and the level of the appointment. Benefits are those appropriate to an international organisation and include non-contributory pension scheme.

Please write with full details. These will be forwarded direct to our client. List separately any companies to whom your application should not be sent. M. Hordern ref. B.2039.

These appointments are open to men and women.

HAY-MSL Selection and Advertising Limited,
52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.
Offices in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australasia and Asia Pacific.

HAY-MSL

CONFIDENTIAL ADVERTISING

Buckmaster & Moore Stockbroking in The Isle of Man

If you are concerned with the changes taking place in stockbroking and are considering the possibility of moving to a firm whose future is assured, we invite you to contact us.

We are looking for individuals or groups to join our rapidly expanding firm in the Isle of Man. Your own client base would be considered an advantage, and could easily be serviced from the Island.

There is no age restriction and senior individuals are encouraged to respond.

All usual benefits also include an attractive living and working environment and the benefits of low taxation.

Please write in the strictest confidence enclosing a full c.v. to R. L. Margot (Partner),

b m

Buckmaster & Moore,
Members of The Stock Exchange,
3 Athol Street, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Electronic Banking Marketing Officer

c. £18,000 + car

The Chase Manhattan Bank is a world leader in the provision of Electronic Banking. Currently we are looking for a Marketing Officer to augment the UK team responsible for marketing our services to premier UK corporations and institutions. Working with bank relationship managers and operations teams, you will present the Chase range of electronic-accessed banking services to customers. This is a highly interesting role and one in which you will often find yourself supporting the introduction of new Chase technologies and products.

Other aspects of the work include assisting in the production of marketing plans, and in meeting training needs, identifying market and product development requirements and contributing to all other activities which help to maximise the sale of our products.

Experience of domestic or international cash management gained in a banking or financial service environment would be a real asset though considerably more vital is the potential and motivation to succeed in a challenging field. Certainly you should possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and be a talented negotiator who relishes responsibility.

In addition to an excellent salary commensurate with your experience, we offer the full range of benefits you would normally expect from a major international bank, including preferential mortgage, personal loans, a non-contributory pension scheme, free medical insurance and bonus.

To apply, please write to Shirley Caine, Human Resources,
The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.,
Woolgate House, Coleman Street,
London EC2P 2HD.



CHASE

Tax Manager

London up to £25,000 + car

Marks & Spencer has a record of real growth few other companies can equal. We have now extended our operations to more than 260 stores in the UK and a profitable presence overseas.

Past growth and plans for large-scale future developments now require the setting up of an in-house tax function with a Manager who will have responsibility for the full range of tax affairs of the Company.

Duties will include advising on new projects and future plans on a group wide basis as well as compliance work.

The position of Tax Manager requires a qualified accountant with at least two years experience of tax management in a professional practice or large commercial undertaking.

A commercial outlook, self-motivation and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels are essential.

As well as attractive salary and company car, the benefits package includes a non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and profit sharing after qualifying period.

Applicants should write, enclosing full CV and quoting reference FT, to Management Recruitment, Marks & Spencer Plc., Michael House, 57 Baker Street, London, W1A 1DN.

Marks & Spencer

INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL ENGINEER £27,000-£35,000 + Benefits

Our client, a well respected City Institution, seeks a highly professional individual (ACA or equivalent) whose present involvement in high level negotiations has resulted from a sound technical grounding in major asset finance. Aged 32-35 years, applicants should combine an in-depth knowledge of big ticket leasing, project and export finance in relation to the UK, US and European markets, with first class negotiating skills and the technical ability to formulate individual financial packages of a highly complex nature.

INTERNATIONAL TAX EXPERT £Neg

An opportunity now exists for an entrepreneurial taxation specialist to join a leading Merchant Bank. The successful candidate, aged 32-36 years, will possess a professional accounting or legal qualification together with the proven ability to solve complex international tax problems. Equally important is the creative flair to identify new business opportunities and operate independently in an expanding, innovative environment. The financial package is negotiable, but will reflect the seniority and importance of this position.

ACA's - UK TAXATION

We still seek applications from ACA's, aged 27-30 years with a minimum of 2 years' UK corporate taxation experience, who are keen to utilise their creative financial skills more fully, in an aggressive banking environment. Vacancies are with a Merchant Bank and a large US Bank.

For the above vacancies please contact Jill Backhouse or Brian Gooch
All applications will be treated in strict confidence.
JONATHAN WREN & CO LIMITED,
170 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4LX. Tel: 01-623 1266

**Jonathan
Wren**
RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS

THOS. R. MILLER & SON
(UNDERWRITING AGENTS) LIMITED

LLOYD'S MEMBERS AGENCY DIRECTOR

Our client, an expanding and respected Members' Agency, seeks to appoint a Director to assist in the continuing development of their business. This is an exceptional opportunity to join the Lloyd's Market at a senior level. The person appointed will have a combination of professional qualifications/degree and ability to communicate. You will be particularly responsible for assessing and monitoring syndicate performance, both by analysis and investigation of figures, and developing personal contacts. You will also liaise with and advise both existing and potential Underwriting Members.

Aged 28-40, you will need to demonstrate a proven record of working as part of a successful management team, not necessarily within the Lloyd's community. A full induction into the working of Lloyd's will be given. Our client's policy with appointments of this seniority is to discuss and agree remuneration with the successful applicant. Applicants, male or female, are invited to write enclosing a comprehensive c.v. to: John M.F. Dixon, Director, Houghton Sanderson Associates Limited, Peak House, 20 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AN.

Houghton Sanderson Associates Ltd



Management Consultants

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Electronically Based Financial Services

Standard Chartered is one of Britain's largest banking groups, with gross assets exceeding £28 billion and more than 2,000 offices in over 60 countries.

We wish to recruit an officer experienced in a range of electronic customer services to strengthen our research and development area. The post will involve market research, product identification and the development and launch of new products, working within our Group Development Department.

The ideal candidate will be aged 28-35 years, will be a graduate/MBA and probably be an AIB. He or she will have had a direct personal involvement in the development

and launch of electronically based financial services, probably of a cash management nature, with emphasis on a marketing role.

Applicants must have good interpersonal skills, with the ability to work as part of a small team.

A generous salary, plus the usual banking benefits, will be provided and good prospects for advancement within the research and development area exist for the successful candidate.

Please apply with a comprehensive c.v., stating present emoluments to Jean Collins, Assistant Manager, U.K. Personnel Services, Standard Chartered Bank, 10 Clements Lane, London, EC4N 7AB.

Standard Chartered

CAPITAL MARKETS

SCANDINAVIAN ACCOUNT OFFICER

We are seeking a Junior Account Officer to assist in the organisation effort in Eurobonds, swaps and other capital markets products in Scandinavia. At least two years' of specialised Scandinavian marketing experience with a leading house active in the region is required. Knowledge of Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and German is desirable with fluency in Swedish a pre-requisite. A competitive salary package will be offered to the successful candidate.

Write Box A9031
Financial Times
10 Cannon Street
London EC4P 4BY

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL CONTROLLER OF A MULTI-NATIONAL MANUFACTURER

Our client is a division of a well known Group with turnover of £100 million. They now require an ambitious, characterised or management accountant aged 25-32 to assume this key role. Experience in the preparation and interpretation of consolidated accounts, budgets and forecasts is essential and a familiarity with computer-based accounting systems is desirable. Based in SE England, the position involves travel and requires a knowledge of German. An excellent remuneration package including relocation will be offered. PLEASE TELEPHONE ARIE RIDGE ON 01-527 8100

General Manager

Mortgage Systems Limited

Age 30-40 c.£30,000 + car

This new and unusual appointment will interest executives who have succeeded as managers in the secured lending field and who would like to earn a seat on the board of a dynamic company in a growth market.

Mortgage Systems Limited manages mortgage funds on behalf of merchant and foreign banks, and insurance companies. Located in Fleet, Hampshire, the company has 50 staff and is expanding fast. It provides the management interface between its lender clients and borrowers via a network of retail intermediaries including mortgage brokers and insurance companies. Its strengths include the efficiency of its computer-based mortgage-processing operations, and the ability to design innovative mortgage products and market them successfully. Mortgage Systems Limited, who now incorporate the Index Linked Mortgage and Investment Co Ltd, launched the first index-linked domestic mortgage scheme and broke new ground with low start flexible payment systems. Reporting to the Managing Director, the General Manager will manage the principal line

functions - leader relations, operations, and broker relations - through a team of department managers. The General Manager's work will have a clear impact on the company's growth and profitability, and success will be rewarded with a directorship.

He or she is expected to come from a bank, building society, insurance company or similar institution. Key requirements are a consistent and progressive track record in management, and particular strengths in leading people, managing change and commercial negotiation at senior levels. A university degree is preferred (but not essential) coupled, ideally, with a professional qualification.

The company envisages a remuneration package of £30,000 in the first year, to include a basic salary of around £20,000 plus bonus. A car and pension will be provided.

Please send brief cv, in confidence, or telephone to make any enquiries, to Gary Gibbons, Banking and Finance Group, Ref: GMS/4/85/1/FT.

PA

PA Personnel Services

Executive Search - Selection - Psychometrics - Remuneration & Personnel Consultancy

Hyde Park House, 80a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 0060 Telex: 27874

PENSION FUNDS ADMINISTRATOR

circa \$13,000 p.a. plus benefits

Our client, a leading Investment Management House, has an opportunity for an experienced funds and securities investment administrator. Acting as number 2 within the department and undertaking a supervisory role you will assist with client contact and administration of pension funds. Therefore, solid organizational ability and good interpersonal skills are essential.

The successful candidate will have experience in, or a good knowledge of, the preparation of data for monthly and annual accounts, reconciliation of accounts, preparation of performance figures and the ability to detail transactions of clients' pension funds. Although the department is computerized you will have a good working knowledge of accounting/bookkeeping.

Application will be welcomed from candidates who meet the requirements through experience, or from qualified Accountants and Chartered Secretaries.

If you consider you have the right experience to undertake this important role please write in strictest confidence enclosing a current c.v. to:

Derek A. Burn, MCP Consultants, Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD

MCP Consultants

Financial Sector Human Resources

Investment Manager Henderson Administration

As a result of continuing growth, Henderson Administration is now seeking an additional pension fund manager for its expanding UK department.

An independent publicly quoted investment management company, Henderson Administration has rapidly increased its funds under management to over £2.6 billion. The pension fund department is responsible for around 40% of this total.

This is an important position which will provide the right person with a challenging opportunity in an environment that is both professional and agreeable.

The successful candidate is likely to be around 30 years old, with several years' experience in managing pension fund portfolios. Remuneration will be competitive and will include non-contributory pension, profit-sharing, a share purchase scheme and other normal benefits.

Applications will be treated in total confidence and should be made to C. G. Clarke, Henderson Administration Group plc, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA.



Henderson. The Investment Managers.

Phillips & Drew

PRIVATE CLIENTS DEPARTMENT

The Department wishes to recruit additional Portfolio Managers' Assistants for its expanding Private Client business.

Applicants, probably in their early twenties, should have at least one year's relevant experience.

A competitive salary package, including bonus, will be offered to the successful candidates.

Please apply, in confidence, enclosing full curriculum vitae, to:-

Miss Deborah Harman, Phillips & Drew,
120 Moorgate, London EC2M 6XP.

Top Executives earning over £20,000 a year

Can you afford to waste nearly £2,000 a month in delay? Minister Executive specialises in solving the career problems of top executives. The Minister programme, tailored to your individual needs and managed by two or more partners, is your most effective route to those better offers, 75% of which are never advertised. Our clients have an impressive record of success; many blue chip companies retain our services in the redeployment of their top people. Telephone or write for a preliminary discussion without obligation—or cost.

MINISTER EXECUTIVE LTD
28 Bolton Street, London W1Y 8HB. Tel: 01-493 1309/1085

Partnership Secretary

London and overseas £30,000-£35,000 + car

One of the best known names in its field, this British practice employs 300 professional and support staff. The partners seek an able senior manager to co-ordinate the Secretarial, financial, personnel, computing and office management functions in the head office based in central London, and in the firm's other offices. Candidates should have a strong commercial background and, ideally, have worked in an international context; a graduate or professional

qualification is expected. A significant strategic input will be required, as well as the maturity and judgement to work effectively with the partners in a demanding environment. Age range: 40 - early 50s. Remuneration will include senior executive benefits, with a bonus arrangement and car provided.

PA

PA Personnel Services

Executive Search - Selection - Psychometrics - Remuneration & Personnel Consultancy

Hyde Park House, 80a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 0060 Telex: 27874

District Treasurer

Salary £20,203 progressing to £23,589 (increase pending)

The Authority has a current revenue allocation of £40 million and manages the Health Services within the boundary of Chester and Ellesmere Port Local Authority Districts, serving a resident population of 178,000 and a hospital catchment population of over 200,000.

In addition it is responsible for the management of the Cheshire Ambulance Service.

The Authority's proposed management arrangements, following the implementation of the 'Griffiths' Report, emphasise the importance of a positive and dynamic involvement of the Treasurer in professional areas of work, as well as his participation in General Management as a member of the District Management Board. In particular, the Treasurer will play an important role in the introduction of clinical budgeting.

Applications are invited from professionally qualified accountants.

Application forms and further details from District Personnel Department, Chester Health Authority, P O Box 41, Lightfoot Street, Chester, CH2 5SD. Tel: 0544-518341 Ext 266. Closing date 18th June 1985.

CHESTER
health authority

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
SMALL BUSINESSES MANAGER/TRAINING OFFICER

for vocational training centre in Swaziland. The manager/training officer will carry out and train others in production co-ordination, marketing, buying, bookkeeping, administration etc. Formal qualifications are less important than relevant experience which may include running a business or co-operative; retailing experience as a general sales officer, or personnel manager; accountancy or buying. Two year contract including modest living allowance and flights. Regret no funding for dependants. Applicants must be resident in UK or Ireland.

For details send large size and short cv to:
 Rose Gervase, Dept. FT1
 International Voluntary Service
 53 Regent Rd, Leicester LE1 6YL

GNI Ltd, one of the most active members of **LITFE**, are looking for an experienced **Pit Trader**. Salary negotiable according to age and experience. Please reply to Miss Brennan at GNI, 3 Lloyds Avenue, London EC3N 3DS. Telephone 01-481 1262

FINANCE COMPANY requires
A TOP PERSON
 Based in S.E. Essex
 Min. Sal. £14,000
 Full CV to:
 MODERN LIVING
 497 LONDON ROAD
 WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
 ESSEX SSO 9LG

Managing Director

An outstanding opportunity in a highly successful company

The company operates in the fields of marketing, advertising and public relations. It has a staff of about 150, and is currently producing pre-tax profits in excess of £750,000.

It is seeking to appoint a Managing Director who will be directly responsible to the Chief Executive, and who will play a central part in maintaining and improving the company's operational efficiency, financial control and profitability, as well as contributing to the strategic development of the business. Responsibilities will also include dealing with some of the company's major UK and overseas clients, at Board level.

Experience in marketing and communications would be desirable; but the company would also welcome approaches from senior managers in analogous service industries such as management consultancy or merchant banking.

The successful applicant is likely to be under 40, but will have an established record of achievement in management, as well as a proven ability to develop business and profits in highly competitive environments.

Initial salary will be in the range £40,000-£50,000, with additional benefits and incentives including share options.

Please reply in the strictest of confidence, enclosing a curriculum vitae, quoting reference ERT85/FT to: Box A9026, Financial Times, Cannon Street, London EC4A 4BY.

Cazenove & Co.

GILT-EDGED AND FIXED INTEREST SALES

An established Gilt-Edged and Fixed Interest department with full statistical support seeks an experienced person to complement a young team, with access to a wide range of domestic, international and corporate clients.

Remuneration, which is negotiable, includes a non-contributory pension scheme and private medical insurance.

Applications including curriculum vitae, should be made in writing to:

The General Manager,
CAZENOVE & CO
 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN
 All applications will be treated in absolute confidence.

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

required to take charge of the Accounts Department of a busy commercial organisation situated in London NW1.

Applicants must be trained to a high standard of accountancy and have a successful track record in Management.

Salary minimum £22,000 plus car, B.U.P.A., etc. Applicants should apply in writing enclosing c.v. and photograph.

Write Box A9033, Financial Times
 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 4BY

RESEARCH ECONOMISTS

The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies wishes to appoint two additional Research Officers, with the following backgrounds:

- (1) An Applied Economist with first-class degree and a proven track record of publications and academic research.
- (2) An Economist with specialist knowledge of either oil or gas and at least three years' experience in industry.

Appointments are normally tenable for three years in the first instance, and salaries will be according to the Oxford University age-related scale for lecturers.

Applicants for the first post should send details of their publications.

Applicants for either post should send a full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees to: The Administrator, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, 28 New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DX.

Closing date for applications is 24 June 1985.

Finance Director

Finance & Leasing

Thames Valley

c. £23K Salary + Car

Our client is a fast expanding finance and leasing subsidiary of a well established private, broadly-based industrial group - £40 million turnover.

At this critical and exciting stage of our client's development, they are now consolidating all their leasing activities within a new division which has a loan book of £20 million, offering a wide range of finance, leasing and consumer credit services, including their recently acquired hire purchase company.

Your key responsibility as Financial Director, where you will report to the Group Financial Director will be to:-

- strengthen the financial management of the division
- rationalise all the group's leasing/finance activities into one cohesive and new dynamic organisation.

You are likely to be a Chartered Accountant in your 30's with at least 5 years' experience in the finance industry, which will include a full understanding of all aspects of consumer credit and leasing. At the moment you will be at Financial Controller/Senior Financial Manager level and be dealing with credit risk and financial evaluation, underwriting and collection procedures, using computerised systems in a big company environment.

- Acute commercial reflexes

- A balanced, sensible accounting attitude
 - Above all, the inbuilt strength to take on the 'bigger job' in a vibrant growth environment.
- Salary and benefits will be especially tailored in the large company mould. Base salary indicator c.£23,000 + car, contributory pension, free life insurance, free medical scheme and relocation costs if required.

For further details, please contact Bill Kirby on Reading (0734) 508151 (ansaphone service outside office hours). Kirby Professional Recruitment Ltd, 24-26 Queens Road, Reading, Berks RG1 4AU.

Kirby Professional

SUCCESS THROUGH RESULTS

COMPUTER ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

circa £11,000 p.a. plus benefits

Our client, a major London based Investment Institution, offers an excellent opportunity within their Computer Accounting Department.

The successful candidate will have knowledge of the Investment accounting and bookkeeping procedures normally associated with an Investment environment. Preference will be given to candidates with experience of computerized systems.

The position will provide a wide variety of challenges including supervising a team of account controllers and participation in the testing, designing and evaluation of new computer systems. As a result, good organizational and analytical skills, together with an interest in computers, are essential to fill this important role.

If you feel you have the right skills, are aged between 25 and 35 and have at least 3 years relevant experience, then please write in confidence with a current c.v. to:

Derek A. Burn, MCP Consultants, Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD

MCP Consultants

Financial Sector Human Resources

Phillips & Drew

PHILLIPS & DREW FUND MANAGEMENT Statistician - Investment Management

As a result of business growth, Phillips & Drew Fund Management wishes to recruit an additional manager to join the team managing index-matched equity funds and providing related statistical services.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate who has either obtained a post-graduate qualification in statistics or has had some success in the actuarial examinations. Application of this theoretical background to practical investment management should enable rapid progress to be made.

An attractive salary package will be offered.

Applications, containing full educational and career details, should be sent to:-

Mr. J. P. McCaughan F.I.A.,
 Phillips & Drew Fund Management,
 120 Moorgate, London, EC2M 6XP.

Finance Directors

With General Management Experience

TI Group, an international engineering group, produces a wide variety of consumer, capital and semi-finished goods. We require two outstanding Finance Directors, who have had previous general management experience and who also have the potential to achieve Managing Director appointments in the future.

The men or women appointed will work closely with the Chairman of a range of subsidiary businesses, which may be in the UK or elsewhere. A portfolio of such businesses has total sales of up to about £300m per annum. Assignments will include performance monitoring, financial trouble shooting, capital expenditure proposals, acquisitions, disposals and helping to formulate business strategies. A functional link will also be maintained with the Group Finance department.

Success in these jobs is likely to lead either to senior line appointments or to more senior financial appointments.

The preferred age bracket is 30 to 45. Applicants must be qualified accountants and must be able to show a record of considerable achievement in senior management jobs in industry, both in finance and in general management. A business qualification would be an added advantage.

Salary is negotiable, and benefits include an executive car, top hat pension etc. Help would be given with relocation where necessary. Base Birmingham.



Apply, in strict confidence, to Group Personnel Director, TI Group plc, TI House, Five Ways, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8SQ.

BANKING RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT 25 +

Likely remuneration £16,000 pa

LJC Banking Appointments, a small established recruitment consultancy, is seeking a consultant to interview for and fill banking vacancies within the £5,000 to £15,000 pa salary range. The ideal person will have a thorough understanding of the functions of all departments within both merchant and commercial banks. He/she will most likely have worked in a bank for a recruitment consultancy. LJC Banking is offering to a self-starter a challenging but rewarding job in a friendly, professional environment.

Please ring Deborah Mayhew on 01-377 9800 to discuss details.

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTANT

A young and rapidly expanding French Services Group is seeking a qualified accountant (ACA/ACMA) to head up the accounting and reporting function of its London company. Based in West London, reporting directly to the General Manager London, functionally to the Financial Controller at HQ in Lyon, the job will also require some European travel.

The successful candidate will have a strong management and financial accounting background, and the ability to implement sound systems of internal control. Considerable experience of mini/micro computer systems, and the ability to cope with various administrative matters is highly desirable, as is the ability to speak/write some French.

The position offers an exceptional opportunity for a young, recently qualified accountant who wishes to develop experience in a youthful, fast-moving international environment. A generous remuneration package will be provided for the right person.

Replies in confidence to:

General Manager,
JET SERVICES (UK) LTD,
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The Royal London is a major U.K. insurance company with total assets of more than £1.5 billion. We are seeking to appoint a fund manager who will play a leading part in the management of a wide range of investment funds, including unit trusts. Applicants should have a good degree in Economics or a closely related subject, together with at least 18 months' experience of equity research and investment analysis. To the right person we can offer an attractive salary, substantial fringe benefits and excellent prospects for rapid career advancement.

If you are interested in this position, please write, enclosing c.v. to:-

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 Royal London House,
 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DS.

Corporate Finance

YOUNG TALENT

A pre-eminent firm of Stockbrokers seeks one or possibly two people to work in its Corporate Finance Department.

- THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY to join a relatively small team with a leading position in the market.

- THE REQUIREMENT is for a qualification in Law or Accountancy, which will probably have been gained with a major City firm. Some experience of New Issue work would be an advantage.

- AGE mid-20's. Remuneration unlikely to be less than £16,000.

Write in complete confidence
 to A. Longland as adviser to the company.

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Investment Marketing

a career development opportunity Central London

Clerical Medical is one of the UK's leading life and pensions offices, noted for its strength in investment management. Recent corporate development has included the highly successful launch of a range of unit linked products.

Our plans for continued growth have led to an opportunity within a new information unit in the Investment Management area, comprising a small team of specialists who provide varied investment communication support to a wide range of internal and external contacts.

This appointment is probably best suited to a graduate in economics, statistics or other numerate discipline. The successful candidate is likely to have 2/3 years' experience in the financial

sector or in industry and to be making good study progress towards a further professional qualification. Equally important will be your personal contribution to the development of this new team, which could prove an invaluable stepping stone towards a career in investment.

We offer a competitive salary according to qualifications and experience plus an excellent benefits package.

Please write with full details to: Nick Morgan, Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society, 15 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LQ.

Clerical Medical

UK Equity Analyst

to £20,000

Our client, an internationally active investment house involved in Investment Banking, Merchant Banking and Broking, seeks a UK equity analyst to complement their existing research coverage.

Candidates will probably be graduates, aged 24-28 with a minimum of three years' equity analysis experience, gained within either a stockbroker or an investing institution. A broadly based background is preferable although sector specialists with a sound grasp of the UK market as a whole will also be considered. Knowledge of European markets may also be useful.

Reporting to a Director, the successful individual will analyse UK equities and be responsible for producing written research material as well as communicating ideas verbally to other members of the company. This is an unusual opportunity for an ambitious individual to establish themselves in a newly created key-role.

Please contact Stephen Embleton at The Investment Division, 23 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2BE, telephone 01-404 5751.



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 A top British Merchant Bank well-placed to tackle the shape of things to come in the new financial era.

The Position
 To assist a small team within the corporate finance department which specialises in advising the bank's smaller corporate clients.

The Candidate
 Will probably be a graduate chartered accountant or solicitor aged up to 30 years with experience in one or more of the following areas: flotations, rights issues, mergers, acquisitions, contested takeovers, investment under the Business Expansion Scheme. Additionally he or she should be self-confident, have flair and possess good interpersonal skills.

For further details of this position telephone or write in complete confidence enclosing full curriculum vitae to ANDREW GOODWIN, Corporate Finance Division.

CHARTERHOUSE APPOINTMENTS

EUROPE HOUSE WORLD TRADE CENTRE LONDON E1 6AA 01-481 9181

International Appointments

Senior Accountants Abu Dhabi

Salary: STG.25,000 Free of tax
+ Substantial Benefits

A leading public sector financial institution requires two Senior Accountants for its Finance Department in Abu Dhabi.

The Institution concerned is actively involved in worldwide securities and other investment on a large scale. The organisation uses sophisticated investment techniques and employs the latest data processing and communications technology.

The candidates appointed will assist the existing financial team in the Finance Department in the following projects:—

- (1) The development of Financial Accounting Systems,
- (2) The development of performance analysis and other reporting techniques,
- (3) The provision of management information to all levels of management.

Scope for personal initiative and creativity is high. Duties will involve extensive contact with Directors and Managers and the position offers first class experience.

Candidates should be qualified Accountants aged between 28-35 with good academic record. Relevant professional experience gained either in a leading International Audit firm or directly in an Investment Bank of other major institution is essential. Energy, creativity and tact are key personal requirements.

The candidates will be required to live in Abu Dhabi on married or single status. The remuneration package offered includes a substantial salary, transport allowance, first class furnished accommodation inclusive of all service, 45 days leave per annum, annual return air fares to place of origin, free health care, assistance with education of dependent children and a substantial terminal gratuity. Salary and benefits are at present free of all taxation.

Please send full career details to:—

The Director,
18th Floor,
99 Bishopsgate,
LONDON
EC2M 3XD.

Interviews will take place in London in July or August, 1985.

Now Accountants can ignore Tax -and reap the benefits Tax-Free Opportunities in Saudi Arabia

IAL is a major international group who are currently assisting the Saudi Arabian National Guard to recruit staff for the prestigious King Fahad Hospital in Riyadh.
The Fiscal Services Department of the Hospital has vacancies for the following staff:—

Senior Accountant

*£19,200pa tax-free

The work will include organising and directing General Ledger entries, reviewing monthly trial balances, developing new records systems, and analysing schedules and accounts for interim, monthly and annual reports.

You'll be a fully qualified Accountant, ideally with a business studies qualification and have at least 5 years' experience, 2 of which should have been in a supervisory role. Hospital experience is desirable. Ref. F228/01.

Cost and Price Analyst

*£19,200pa tax-free

To review the operations of on-site and off-site contractors, determining capability and performance. You'd also review the termination of all sub-contracts, assuring performance and verifying payments.

You'll need to be fully qualified with five years' experience in cost and price analysis or a related field. Some knowledge of US Defence Acquisition Regulations (DAR) or Federal Procurement Regulations (FPR) is desirable. Ref. F228/02.

*Salaries are at a conversion rate of £1=SR4.5595.

These are accompanied positions and in addition to the tax-free salaries, there is a comprehensive benefits package including free accommodation, generous holiday with flights to the UK and excellent sports and leisure facilities.

For further details, telephone or write to the Recruitment Executive (BDG), quoting appropriate reference.



Manpower Services

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A MEMBER OF THE STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES PLC GROUP

As the largest Swiss telecommunications company, with years of experience in the export market, we now intend to intensify our sales efforts in the Far East. We are seeking a

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Based in Hong Kong, he will support our sales departments in their efforts to penetrate existing and to open up new markets.

Preference will be given to applicants who are qualified electronics engineers specialising in telecommunications and who have sales experience and a knowledge of the appropriate marketing channels for public and in-house communications systems in the Far East.

In addition, applicants should have experience in dealing with public authorities and have a proven track record in international trade.

An attractive salary, together with comprehensive social benefits, will be offered for this highly responsible position.

The successful applicant will undergo a training period of approximately six months in Switzerland. Please send your letter of application and c.v. to HASLER Ltd., Personnel Dept. A, For the attention of Mr. P. Burkhalter, Belpstrasse 23, CH-3000 Bern 14, Switzerland. Tel: 031/65 26 72. Telex: 32413 HAG.

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High tax-free incomes are being earned by British and other expatriates in many parts of the world. Most of them are keen for advice on how best to invest and maximise these assets, and they naturally prefer to seek it from people they can trust and respect. People such as Finexco's Financial Consultants. Their expertise, allied to total integrity and professionalism has enabled us to grow to become one of the world leaders in this fast expanding specialist market in less than five years. Such is the demand for our services that we now need to add to our elite team of International Consultants. We are looking for people whose background of consistent professional achievement has won

them respect in the business community: people with plenty of self-confidence, imagination, a streak of independence and a constant desire for fresh challenge. Probably not less than 30, your acumen, authority, and ability to negotiate are more important than specific experience of international finance, although this would of course be a considerable asset, as would a second language. Our specialist training is acknowledged to be one of the best in the profession. It will prepare you to go wherever the market is (and that could be anywhere in Europe, the Middle East, Africa or the Far East) and reap very high rewards commensurate with your success. This is without doubt an exceptional opportunity with a true Blue Chip company. Please write, enclosing a full CV, to H E Gane, (Ref: 318), Whites Bull Holmes Ltd., 63-65 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4JX.

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Marketing Executive

Prime responsibilities will be the preparation of annual marketing plans to ensure that volume of business and profit targets are met, together with the initiation of research aimed at improving the Bank's products, services and marketing methods. Will also supervise the identification of new business and potential new borrowing customers, as well as preparing industry surveys, reports and forecasts for senior management.

Substantial relevant experience in a major Banking group is essential and the ability to communicate in Arabic would be a distinct advantage. Ref. B.1178.2.

Deputy Manager - Inspection

Major function will be to assist the Chief Inspector in the day-to-day control of the Inspectorate - particularly the internal audit section. Other responsibilities include the supervision of area auditors together with the maintenance and amendment of the relevant audit programs. Also liaise with the Senior Travelling Inspectors, the Bank's lawyers and the various branches.

Candidates must have substantial experience gained as Accountant of a large branch, ideally involved with facilities work, and should have the independence and communications ability to manage staff effectively. Previous Middle East experience would be advantageous. Ref. B.1178.3.

An attractive tax free compensation package is offered commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include paid annual leave with air fares for self and dependents, free medical cover and life insurance etc. Two year renewable contracts on married status. Please write - in confidence - with full details, quoting relevant reference, to F. Bisby, HAY-MSL Middle East, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

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middle east

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Established in 1819, Die Erste oesterreichische Spar-Casse-Bank (First Austrian Bank) have in recent years expanded their international banking activities to about one third of their total business volume.

They wish to recruit an experienced young officer (age c 26-30) for their Euroloan operations for international clients. Candidates should be graduates, fluent in German (a good command of another continental language would be helpful) with good credit analysis training and some marketing experience, preferably in a Merchant Banking environment.

As one of Austria's major commercial Banks, First Austrian has a strong trade finance content to its international business and knowledge of that business would form a useful part of candidate's experience.

An attractive salary is offered together with ample opportunity to travel on Bank business.

Please contact **DAVID GROVE**
Consultant to the Bank

DAVID GROVE
PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE SEARCH & SELECTION
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Seeks an aggressive Credit/Marketing Officer who meets the following criteria:

- Fluency in Arabic and English
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- A proven ability to work independently and with minimal supervision
- Willingness to relocate to Bahrain and travel frequently to Saudi Arabia

The assignment offers excellent career opportunities.

Please mail a comprehensive resume to:

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER
CITIBANK, N.A.
P.O. BOX 548
MANAMA — BAHRAIN

SAUDI ARABIA CREDIT CARD OPERATIONS MANAGER

Substantial Tax-Free Package

Our Client markets and operates Mastercard under license in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Growth has been rapid and is expected to continue. They now wish to appoint an Operations Manager to control and expand their headquarters function in Jeddah. There will be a dual emphasis on day to day administrative control and upon promotion of the existing facility to other potential users such as banking institutions.

Experience in the credit card industry is essential; supervision of a multinational group in an overseas location is a distinct bonus. Job demands will be high; prospects in terms of responsibility and rewards are considerable. A substantial tax-free salary and benefits package will be negotiated which will include free furnished accommodation, private transport and paid annual leave.

Please send full c.v. or telephone: Michael Nagle FCA, Saba and Nagle International Ltd., 23 Pentridge Square, London W2 4DZ. Tel: 01-221 2996.

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INTERNATIONAL**

AMSTERDAM NATIONAL MANAGER

An international retail business with multiple outlets in Amsterdam invites applications from persons able to take overall responsibility for our Dutch operations. The position calls for shrewd business acumen, the ability to manage and motivate staff and to take responsibility for profitability. A unique package will be structured for the person able to demonstrate their ability to fill this very important management role.

Write to Box A9026, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY
Ref. GS



LOCAFRANCE

Leader of the French leasing sector, is expanding its international activities in conjunction with its parent company, Banque Indosuez, and is creating two new job positions for:

Executives in charge of international projects

They will report to the International Director and their responsibility will at first consist in following the development of newly established financial companies abroad, in conducting projects and in negotiating agreements. These activities will lead very rapidly to a management responsibility of overseas company.

These positions require considerable geographical availability and will be offered to university graduates having a strong financial background, with a perfect knowledge of French and English and with several years of experience in the leasing sector. These positions represent interesting career prospects within a highly competitive firm for candidates who possess both the skill of a researcher and the talent of a field negotiator.

Please send confidential resume and short handwritten letter indicating your phone no under ref. 067 FT to Route SCHWARTZ

Carrières

47 bis, avenue Hoche 75008 PARIS.

Accountancy Appointments

Commercial Accountant

£ neg. + Car N.W. London

Laskys is the retail arm of the successful blue chip, Ladbroke Group and has expanded over the past few years to become one of the market leaders in audio/visual products, with a turnover in excess of £60 million.

We are now seeking a newly qualified Accountant with commercial acumen who wishes to develop a career in a fast-moving industry. Based at our Head Office in Hendon you will have an excellent understanding of management control techniques, a willingness to develop and implement such controls, an ability to communicate at all levels and a willingness to travel to any of our 50+ stores. Experience of fring will be an advantage but is not essential.

The rewards include an attractive salary, excellent benefits package, experience in working with a highly professional management team and exposure to all facets of a major retailing business.

Please write with full personal and career details to: Michelle Schroeder, Personnel Manager, Hardman House, The Hyde, London NW9. Tel: 01-200 0444 ext. 235.

LASKYS

The Retail Division of the Ladbroke Group

Financial Executive

Herts

c£30,000 + car + benefits

An opportunity has arisen for an ambitious and dynamic senior accountant, who is keen to make a major impact and be involved in the corporate development of an organisation.

Our client is both well established and renowned in the financial sector. They currently seek a Chief Financial Officer who, in addition to managing a significant accounts department, will be responsible for statutory and management accounting, reviewing and enhancing systems and, as a member of the Executive team reporting to the Chief Executive, contribute towards corporate planning.

Candidates should be qualified accountants with experience at a senior level gained in either industry, commerce or the financial sector and of particular importance will be the need for experience in management accounting and costing. The successful candidate will have the personality, drive, self-confidence and business acumen to play a major role in the organisation's future development.

The excellent benefits will include a salary (negotiable around the indicator shown), company car, pension, plus subsidised BUPA and mortgage facilities. Relocation assistance will also be provided if appropriate.

Candidates should apply in confidence enclosing a full CV and quoting reference MCS/6054 to Alannah Hunt, Executive Selection Division, Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 1SY.

Price Waterhouse
Business Needs Experts

Accountant Merchant Banking

South London

c.£20,000 + Car + Benefits

Our client, a leading merchant bank, is seeking a Deputy Chief Accountant (Designate) as a result of retirement of the current jobholder in two years time.

The successful candidate will be a Chartered Accountant, ideally in his or her mid 40's, and will have recent banking experience. Reporting to the Chief Accountant, the person appointed will be responsible for the preparation of all aspects of financial and management accounts and will be involved in the bank's ongoing computerisation project. In addition, he or she will be the bank's adviser on VAT matters and a detailed knowledge in that area is essential.

This is an interesting appointment based at the bank's administrative headquarters and the attractive remuneration package will include substantial profit sharing, mortgage assistance and other benefits.

Please write in confidence, enclosing career details and quoting reference R4200/L to: Valerie Fairbank, Executive Selection Division, Pear, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 165 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 3PD.

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Kent

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Our client is a successful and expanding organisation involved in shipping and freight forwarding.

Currently managed by a young, dynamic and enthusiastic team, they are now wishing to appoint a Financial Controller who will assume total responsibility for the accounting function and will report jointly to the Finance Director and the Managing Director.

This is an ideal opportunity for a qualified accountant, aged 28 to 34 years to join a growing concern which can certainly offer excellent prospects for future career development. Previous experience within shipping/freight forwarding is preferable, but not essential.

Written applications including up-to-date curriculum vitae to be forwarded to: Robert N. Collier or Neil Gillespie at our London address quoting reference number 5267A.

410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS. Tel: 01-836 9501
26 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PE. Tel: 041-226 3101
113/115 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JN. Tel: 031-225 7744
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Oil Industry

Aberdeen

Total Oil Marine is a successful North Sea Operator, involved in a full range of oil and gas activities. We are currently developing the Alwyn North Field scheduled for start up in 1987, and as a result of this substantial growth, have a newly created position for a senior Accountant who will take a leading role in company-wide financial system development.

Total is committed to the highest standards of computer system development utilising state-of-the-art financial and business related systems based on an IBM mainframe. Your initial responsibilities will include analysis of operational requirements, preparation of design specifications, systems testing and user documentation. Previous experience in a development role would be an advantage.

Probably aged around 27-35, you will be a qualified Accountant and have experience of integrated accounting and cost reporting systems in a modern computerised environment. As a rapidly expanding North Sea operator, career prospects within Total are excellent.

As part of a multi-national group, we offer an attractive index-linked salary and a comprehensive benefits package including generous relocation assistance.

Please telephone for more information and an application form, or send a detailed CV to: Paula Feathers, Training & Recruitment Officer, Total Oil Marine, Craynest Road, Aftens Industrial Estate, Aberdeen AB9 2AG. Tel: (0224) 875555 ext. 3560

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They seek a multi-lingual graduate ACA to be sited within commuting distance of one of their UK locations. The role is one of review of overseas and UK operating divisions and will expose you to complex worldwide information systems, US and European reporting requirements and globally tight reporting deadlines/internal control.

With experience gained via exposure

to precious metal trading/world commodity markets, your operational accounting "know how" will be improved due to the review of both refining and manufacturing activities. Your prospects will be enhanced by being part of a prestigious company which operates at the barrier of new technology and one that is committed to promoting within senior line roles.

Applicants should write, enclosing a comprehensive cv., to: Adrian Wheale ACMA, ACIS at Michael Page Partnership, St Augustine's Court, 1 St. Augustine's Place, Bristol BS1 4XP, quoting ref B8039.

MP
Michael Page Partnership
International Recruitment Consultants

London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney

Group Audit Manager

Food Industry

Reading Area

to £20,000 + Car

No longer is internal audit regarded as being merely the watchdog of an organisation. Today enlightened companies are greatly enlarging the traditional role of the internal audit department and regarding it as a key contributor to their prosperity and success. Our client is such a company.

With a turnover approaching £90 million they are one of the major manufacturers and retailers in their sector of the Food Industry and number most well known High Street names amongst their customers.

They are keen to maximise the full effectiveness of the audit function and wish to recruit an able Group Audit Manager to undertake this challenging role.

An A.C.A. or A.C.C.A. qualification is essential and candidates must have in-depth audit experience of computer-based systems in either the profession or industry. Age is not a critical factor provided you can demonstrate a high level of drive, initiative and commercial awareness.

An attractive salary is offered depending on age and experience, together with excellent benefits and good career prospects within this acquisitive-minded group.

Please send concise details, including current salary and daytime telephone number, quoting reference C2023, to: W.S. Gilliland, Executive Selection Division,

Thomson Baker Associates Limited, Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6DW.



NATIONWIDE HOSPITALS PLC

GROUP ACCOUNTANT

c. £16,500 + Car, Pension and Medical Insurance

We are a leading company in the private medical and continuing care fields. Current and proposed expansion means that we need to strengthen our management team by recruitment of a qualified accountant.

In addition to supervising our accounting the successful candidate, who will probably be in his early 30s, will be responsible for all financial planning, the introduction of computerised management systems for the Group budgetary controls and forecasts.

Prospects are excellent in this expanding Group and candidates must be willing to travel. The position will be based in Winchester where the Group will shortly be relocating to new offices.

Apply by letter, enclosing curriculum vitae, to:
The Managing Director
NATIONWIDE HOSPITALS PLC
Crown Court, 1 East Borough, Wimborne
Dorset BH21 1LP

EUROPEAN AUDIT FOR U.S. WORLD LEADER

Based W. of London Top benefits package + relocation

This major U.S. Group is one of the largest and most successful companies in its field, with ambitious plans for further expansion linked to continued and substantial investment in new product development.

Internal promotions coupled with increasing demands on the European Audit function have resulted in the need to recruit a number of high-calibre qualified accountants aged 24-32 to join an established team based in the U.K. as:-

Audit Manager c.£20,000 + car

Senior Auditors £13,000 to £15,000 + car

Working on varied and challenging assignments, you will provide management with independent reviews of activities within their European companies investigating business and financial operations, systems, and controls.

All appointments offer ideal platforms for career development to senior management status in the U.K. or internationally and are geared to individuals with the ambition to succeed in this fast-moving group, highly regarded for its ability to promote from within.

For the Senior Auditor roles, you will be recently qualified with experience in a larger professional firm or multi-national group. For the appointment of Audit Manager, you will have significant audit, management and organisational experience, ideally gained in a progressive commercial environment. You will also have the independence and flexibility to enjoy spending in excess of 50% of your time outside the U.K.

For a detailed and confidential discussion, please telephone Neil Wax, Consultant to the Company, on 01-387 5400 (out-of-hours on 0923 43033) quoting Ref NW/5000 or write to:

FINANCIAL SELECTION SERVICES
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TELEPHONE: 01-387 5400

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

NORTH-WEST LONDON

c£22,000 pa + company car

Heron International is one of the United Kingdom's fastest-growing companies. The group is renowned for demanding a high level of commitment and exceptional standards of performance from its management team. It is also well-known that 'fast track' promotion is the reward for success.

An opportunity has arisen to join the Heron subsidiary which specialises in Fleet-management and Contract-hire packages for commercial users -

HERONDRIVE

The company epitomises the Heron style - dynamic, aggressive, professional, profitable and expanding.

The person appointed will be aged around 30, male or female, a Chartered Accountant and, ideally, a business graduate; experience will have been gained in commercial organisations of outstanding operational and financial pedigree.

In addition to assuming responsibility for the general accounting function, the successful incumbent will have specific responsibility for assisting the Managing Director in the design and implementation of a new computerised accounting system.

The financial and fringe benefits rewards package is outstanding and, subject to satisfactory performance, an appointment to the board will be made.

Applications in the form of a brief but meaningful cv should be sent to Brian Hodges acting as advisor to the Company at

Brian Hodges Associates

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS - EXECUTIVE SEARCH - APPRAISAL AND TRAINING CONSULTANTS
Suite 3, 50-52 High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8AJ

TECHNOLOGY

EDITED BY ALAN CANE

Throwing light on computers of the future

THINK OF a small box containing millions of tiny slivers of material each of them transmitting light rather like a cinema projector. The system is interlinked so that light circulates continuously between the different projectors, each of them modifying signals before transmitting the light again.

This is a crude description of the very fast optical computers envisaged for the 1990s by a small group of researchers in the U.S. and Western Europe.

By flashing on and off in a coded sequence, projectors would send instructions to one of its counterparts.

The complete system could act as the processing switches analogous to the silicon chips in today's computers. The difference is that messages would be sent not with relatively slow-moving electrons but by beams of light travelling at 300,000 km a second.

Furthermore, the optical computer would deal not with one instruction at a time—as in today's computers—but would be capable of processing per-

AMP (an optical fibres company).

The U.S. National Science Foundation and the state of Arizona are contributing \$150,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Professor Hyatt Gibbs, director of the co-operative, says the development of working systems is still some years away. But he thinks that in the 1990s optical techniques could complement the electronic processing systems used in conventional computers.

For instance, optical computing steps could be harnessed in a small part of a large computer to work on a difficult problem that involves massive "number crunching." The optical processing segment would then need to be linked with a conventional electronics based system.

In Britain, a group under Professor Desmond Smith at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh has developed devices that could be the prototypes of the switching circuits used in optical computers of the 1990s.

Prof Smith's group is due to join a research consortium



Prof Desmond Smith with elements of his prototype

is changed by the optical properties of the substance, a process known as refraction.

An everyday example of refraction is the way light is slowed down as it passes from air to water, resulting in a blurring of images viewed through the water.

In materials that demonstrate optical bistability, the refraction of a ray of light sent through the material varies in relation to the intensity not in a linear fashion but in a series of discrete steps.

An optically bistable substance has two stable regions in which the transmitted intensity hardly varies with changes in the intensity of the ray of light.

As a result of this behavior, a beam channelled into such a substance can trigger a large gain in intensity of the transmitted ray for only a small increase in the intensity of the incoming light beam.

Banks of these kind of materials could be used instead of transistors in ordinary computers, each of which act as an on/off switch to streams of electrons. Optical transistors—

tem in a complex path, weaving to and fro between perhaps millions of optical elements in a microscopic version of a disordered laser light show.

Light beams, being composed of neutral photons, do not influence each other in the way that electrons do, repelling each other because of their negative charges.

So millions of separate light beams could travel through an optical computer (each focused by high-accuracy lenses and each carrying signals for entirely separate processing steps) without disturbing each other.

Work in research laboratories is aimed at finding materials that are optically bistable at room temperatures (the effect is more pronounced at very low temperatures near to absolute zero or -273 deg C, but this introduces obvious practical difficulties) and which require for their activation only small amounts of power.

In a working optical system too much power consumption would generate vast quantities of heat that would melt the components.

Faster

The Heriot Watt team is working on optical transistors based on indium antimonide, a compound semiconductor. Other suitable materials include zinc selenide and zinc sulphide. The group is working with carbon-dioxide lasers made by Edinburgh Instruments, of which Prof Smith is chairman.

In the U.S., Prof Gibbs in Arizona is using crystals of gallium arsenide, which respond to laser light with a wavelength of about 0.9 micrometres. He has built circuits of optical switches measuring ten micrometres square that are etched, using lithographic (pattern-printing) techniques borrowed from conventional semiconductor production, on relatively large sheets of gallium arsenide.

Such switches respond to light signals in 1 to 3 picoseconds, some 1,000 times faster than switches based on transistors. (One picosecond is one thousand-billionth of a second). Each light signal would contain pulses that are either on or off and so constitute a binary signal of the kind digested by ordinary computers.

The switches built by Prof Gibbs recover their characteristics in a further 200 picoseconds, which is the time before they can receive and react to another coded ray of light.

Smoke monitor will help curb pollution

BY PETER MARSH

COMPANIES in the chemical and energy industries could be helped by a device that monitors smoke from factory chimneys.

The equipment, developed by the U.S. Government's Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, could mean that new ways of generating electricity from coal become commercially viable.

The device classifies smoke particles according to size, allowing workers to test the efficiency of new combustion systems and check whether the emitted gases produce pollution.

It can also be used in any industry that needs to monitor the output from chimneys, either to satisfy pollution requirements or because impurities in the atmosphere could impede its own production processes.

Customers for the equipment could include hospitals, foundries, microchip plants, kilns and companies that test or make gas turbines.

The system was produced at Sandia's combustion research facility, aided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

It includes a special microbalance made by Ruppel and Patachnick of Voorheesville, New York.

The microbalance, which looks like a champagne glass, is clamped at its mouth to a base plate. A filter attached to the narrow end oscillates between two electric plates.

The gases pass through the wider end of the instrument. Any particles collect on the filter, making it heavier and causing it to oscillate at a different frequency.

The oscillation is measured electronically while a set of fibre-optic cables transmit pictures about the build-up of particles on the filter. The information is sent to a computer for analysis.

According to Dr James Wang, a Sandia scientist, the system provides almost instantaneous information about gases as they are emitted. As a result, workers are warned of any changes in the process that, for example, may lead to a surge in gases causing a threat of pollution.

Sandia engineers have tried out the system as a way of monitoring the performance of an industrial boiler.

Computers to keep track of costs on building sites

COMPUTERS are helping a civil-engineering company based in Northampton, England, to keep track of costs on its building sites.

Kimbell Construction has joined with researchers at the University of Aston in Birmingham to produce programs with which site managers and foremen can analyse information about, for example, volumes of concrete consumed per week and payments to labourers and subcontractors.

The software, which runs on Apple II personal computers, has been used on three building projects in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Two were road building schemes while the other involved a new sewage plant.

Mr Douglas Gibbs, a director of the 58m-turnover Kimbell, said the hardware gives people on site instant access to an array of information about

building work and so makes for better planning and fewer delays.

The construction industry in recent years has done much to tighten up on costs and the flow of materials on building sites, but acknowledges that computers can greatly help in this process. Conventionally, vital information is written on scraps of paper which can be mislaid in the hurry-burry of building operations.

The work with Aston's department of civil engineering and construction is partly financed by a teaching-company grant from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Teaching companies are projects partly supported by the Government which aim to bring together companies and academic establishments.

PETER MARSH

Sensor for vehicle navigation

SIEMENS has developed a sensor which locates its position by detecting constant magnetic fields.

The sensor has already found two applications. One is in Siemens Autoscout car navigation system now undergoing trials and the second is in oil drilling where the sensor can detect any deviation of the bore hole from its ideal path.

The sensor consists of two iron-core coils wound on a new type of soft magnetic material. The electric current in the two coils changes in accordance with their position with respect to the Earth's magnetic field.

By measuring these changes, the position of the sensor can be determined. For example, in the Autoscout experiment, the sensor continuously measures the angle between the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and the Earth's magnetic field.

Bid to outwit car thieves

CRANFIELD Product Engineering Research Centre is developing a device which enables police to identify stolen cars even after they have been disguised.

The device is fitted securely in the vehicle and stores electronically a unique and unalterable number—more than 100 million variations are possible. It can be read with a portable interrogator unit.

The device is aimed chiefly at the executive car market. Manufacturers' co-operation will be required if it is to be fitted widely. The police and the Home Office are said to be interested.

U.S. \$100,000,000

GW®

Great Western Financial Corporation

(Incorporated in Delaware)

Floating Rate Notes Due 1995

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the three month interest period from 6th June, 1985 to 6th September, 1985 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 7 1/4% per annum. The interest amount payable on the relevant interest payment date which will be 6th September, 1985 is U.S. \$998.26 for each Note of U.S. \$50,000.

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Agent Bank

Weekly net asset value



Tokyo Pacific Holdings (Seaboard) N.V.

on 3rd June 1985 U.S. \$88.04

Listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange

Information: Pearson, Hidding & Pierson N.V.,
Herengracht 214, 1016 BS Amsterdam.

VONTOBEL EUROBOONDINDIZES

WEIGHTED AVERAGE YIELDS

PER 4 JUNE 1985

| | Today | INDEX | Last week | % | Year's |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|------|--------|
| 125 Eurobonds | 10.08 | 10.48 | 11.52 | High | 10.50 |
| DM (Foreign Bond Issues) | 8.58 | 7.00 | 7.82 | 8.50 | 8.50 |
| MLP (Swiss Notes) | 8.97 | 7.17 | 7.89 | 8.50 | 8.50 |
| Cash Eurobonds | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 |

Bank J. Vontobel & Co Ltd, Zurich - Tel: 010 411 488 7711

U.S. \$150,000,000

First Interstate Overseas N.V.

(Incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles)

Guaranteed Floating Rate
Subordinated Notes Due 1995Guaranteed on a subordinated basis
as to payment of principal and interest by

First Interstate Bancorp

(Incorporated in Delaware)

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the three month interest period from 6th June, 1985 to 6th September, 1985 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 7 1/4% per annum. The interest amount payable on the relevant interest payment date which will be 6th September, 1985 is U.S. \$198.06 for each U.S. \$10,000 principal amount of Notes.

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Agent Bank

The Seiyu, Ltd.

(Kabushiki Kaisha Seiyu)

U.S. \$50,000,000

Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1988

For the six months

7th June, 1985 to 9th December, 1985

In accordance with the Provisions of the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 7 1/4% per cent per annum, and that the interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 9th December, 1985 against coupon No. 4 will be US\$ 2039.50.

The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited
Agent Bank

U.S. \$100,000,000

Credito Italiano

(Incorporated as a Societa per Azioni in the Republic of Italy)

LONDON BRANCH

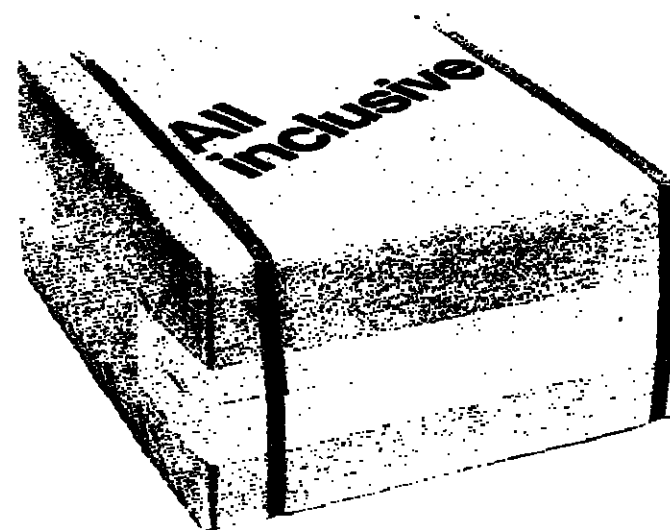
Floating Rate Depositary Receipts
due 1992

issued by the The Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Receipts and the provisions of the Agent Bank Agreement, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the initial interest period commencing June 5, 1985 has been determined at 7 1/4% p.a. The interest payment date will be December 5, 1985 and payment of \$403.49 will be made per US\$10,000 deposited and \$10,087.24 will be made per US\$250,000 deposited.

June 6, 1985

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., London, Agent Bank

In the heart of town by 4.15 pm – the pacemakers have arrived.



Eurapid is the European express system par excellence which is (already) completely at home in nine countries: Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Eurapid transports everything, with very few exceptions. From door to door. With guaranteed running times and tariffs in which everything – and we mean everything – is

included. As well as a reassuring transport insurance.

Cross my heart: Even when handling express consignments, there are moments when every moment counts.

EURAPID
Express par excellence.

Birmingham: Overall, Sutton Coldfield: Tel. 021/3517474. Bristol: Gentransco, Avonmouth: Tel. 0272/829188. Glasgow: Overall, Paisley: Tel. 041/889066. London: Overall, Southend-on-Sea: Tel. 0702/549245. Manchester: Overall, Manchester: Tel. 061/8487981.

U.S. \$100,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1992

Lloyds Eurofinance N.V.

(Incorporated in the Netherlands with limited liability)

Guaranteed on a subordinated basis as to
payment of principal and interest by

Lloyds Bank P.L.C.

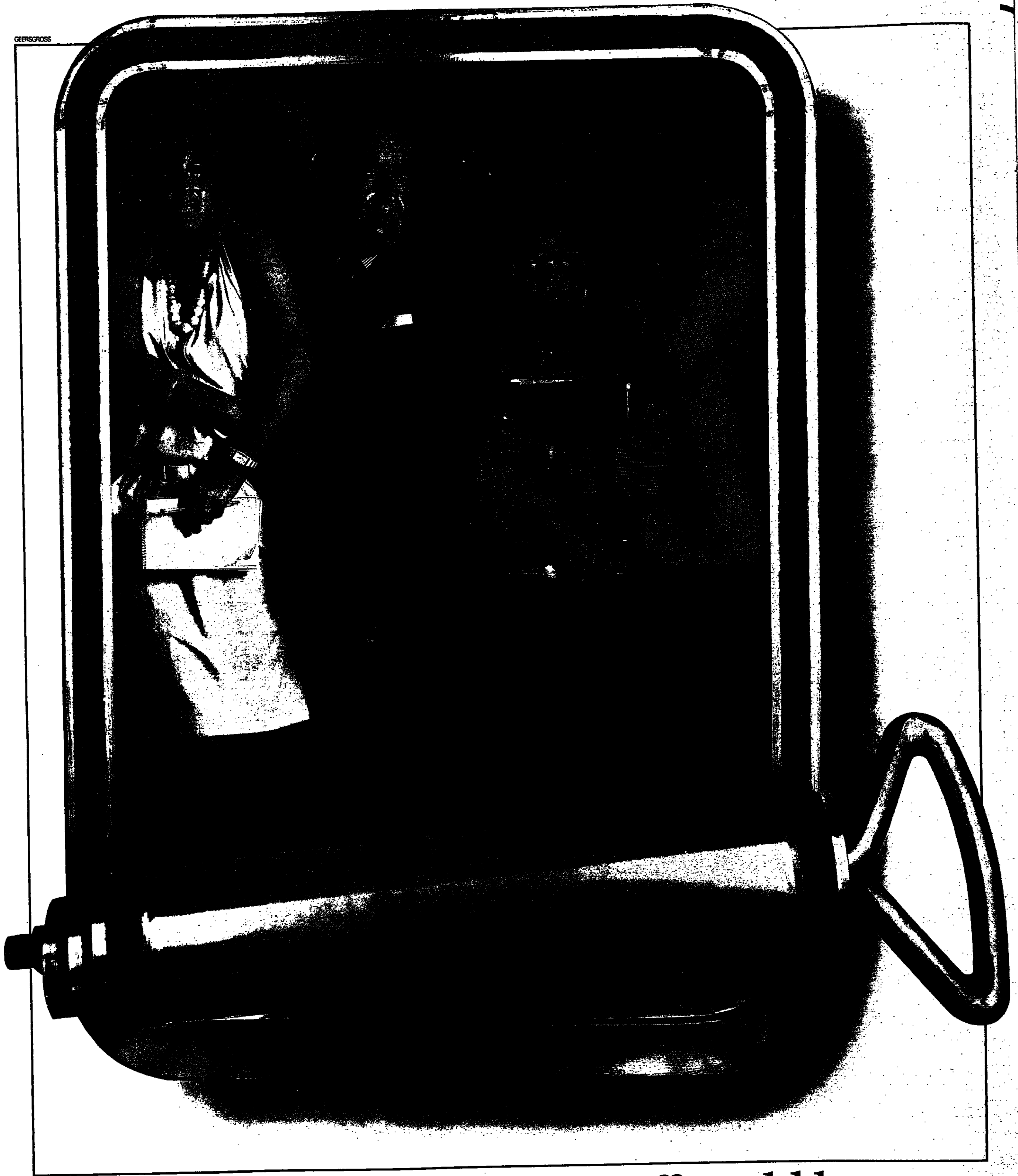
(Incorporated in England with limited liability)

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes and the provisions of the Agent Bank Agreement between Lloyds Eurofinance N.V., Lloyds Bank P.L.C. and Citibank, N.A., dated December 2, 1980, notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 8 1/4% p.a. and that the interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, December 6, 1985, against Coupon No. 10 will be US\$204.92 per US\$50,000 Note.

June 6, 1985, London
By: Citibank, N.A. (CSSI Dept), Agent Bank

CITIBANK®

GEERS/ROSS



Office planning. Your staff could be closer to the problem than you are.

Making the best use of your office space can be a pressing problem.

Especially for your staff. After all, morale and productivity are both bound to suffer if your office is outdated and inefficient.

But no matter how squeezed you might be, Steelcase can help you plan and create a working

environment that really does work. With the latest technology in mind.

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You may well find we can give your business a little breathing space.



Furnishing you with a better office.

Accountancy Appointments

Financial Systems Development Manager

South Coast

£17,000+car

This new appointment, reporting to the Managing Director, is necessitated by planned growth of a well established and profitable financial services group which has recently strengthened its senior technical team.

The person appointed will review and refine accounting systems, develop new group computerised cost and total financial control procedures on both a departmental and individual project basis. Previous experience of reporting to an American parent company would be an advantage.

This is an attractive opportunity for a creative Chartered Accountant to join a dynamic, expanding, profit conscious business offering personal career development prospects.

To the salary, negotiable as indicated, will be added a subsidised mortgage arrangement and private medical plan. Relocation assistance will be provided, where appropriate.

Please send adequate particulars, in confidence, to John Finnigan of:

John Finnigan International
Management Consultants
c/o 44 Wellington Street, London WC2E 7DJ.

Financial Management

Major UK retailing company

Thames Valley

£23,000 + Car

An impressive record of growth (annual turnover £250m) and the introduction of new accounting systems has created the need for a senior financial manager at the corporate headquarters of this leading fmcc retailing company.

Controlling some 70 personnel, this managerial role will encompass responsibility for broad based head office and mainstream financial accounting in addition to accounts payable control.

A qualified accountant, aged 30-40, you will ideally have a retail background with an in-depth knowledge of highly computerised accounting systems. A strong technical bias, proven man-

agement skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels of seniority are pre-requisites for this challenging position.

The highly attractive salary package will include a company car, BUPA, executive pension scheme and generous relocation expenses where appropriate. Prospects for promotion are extremely promising for the applicant capable of demonstrating a high level of performance and personal commitment.

Applicants should write to Nigel Bates FCA, Executive Division, enclosing a comprehensive c.v., quoting ref. 260, at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney



MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

The University has created a new post of Senior Assistant Accountant to strengthen its financial administration, particularly in the rapidly expanding field of externally-financed research and related activity. This is a challenging opportunity requiring an imaginative approach to a wide range of high-level demands for financial and management accounting services. A professional qualification is essential and candidates will need to demonstrate substantial experience in a relevant area. Previous university experience is not essential.

Salary will be within Administrative Grade III (£24,135 to £27,705) but subject to an expected increase from 1 April, 1985. Application forms and further particulars are available from the Registrar. Closing date 1 July, 1985.

Loughborough Leicestershire

INFLUENTIAL ROLES IN COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Accountancy and Internal Audit
From £10,480 to £17,485 (under review)

The Civil Service College is instrumental in ensuring that management level civil servants receive the training to carry out their duties to maximum effect.

Challenging senior opportunities now exist for appropriately qualified professionals to make an important contribution to course development in financial management and internal audit within the Civil Service. Candidates will demonstrate extensive knowledge of their subject and a well-developed ability to communicate complex concepts clearly and authoritatively. Openings are in the following areas:—

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

Principal - Management Appreciation

To design, develop and direct courses for senior managers who require an understanding of the principles and techniques of financial accounting, cost and management accounting and government accounting, especially in the context of managing Government Departments.

Successful candidates will be appointed as permanent members of the Government Accountancy Service, with the opportunity for transfer to other accountancy work after 3-5 years' lecturing. The minimum entry age is 28, although younger candidates with exceptional qualifications may be considered. Applicants should be members of one of the following bodies:— ICMA, CACA, CIPFA or ICA (England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland). For all posts, teaching experience, ideally in adult education, is desirable. The salary range (under review) for Principal posts is £12,895 - £17,485 and for SEO posts £10,480 - £13,140, (in addition £1300 inner London weighting where applicable). Posts will be based

SEO - Practitioner Courses

Responsible for the preparation and presentation of lectures on accountancy subjects covering basic techniques and the practical application of principles.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Principal

To design, develop and direct Systems Audit courses covering basic concepts and techniques for trainee internal auditors and Audit Management courses for audit supervisors and managers.

SEO

To prepare and present lectures on internal audit covering such topics as internal control, systems approach, audit practice and techniques, audit management and operational techniques. Courses are geared to central government standards, departmental requirements and, if appropriate, examination requirements. NB: There is one vacancy in Internal Audit. Level of appointment will depend on experience.

either at the London centre in Belgrave or at the College's residential teaching centre at Sunningdale Park, Ascot. RELOCATION EXPENSES MAY BE AVAILABLE.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 28 June 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/6560/1.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE

Group Financial Accountant

London

£30,000 + full details

Guinness PLC, a dynamic and expanding international Group involved in Brewing world-wide, Retail, Health and Publishing, wishes to recruit an outstanding financial Manager to the position of Group Financial Accountant, an opportunity that has arisen due to internal promotion.

Reporting to the Group Chief Accountant, the successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of Financial Accounting, Policies and Procedures throughout the Group and for the preparation of the Group's published accounts.

Preferred applicants will be those aged 30 to 40, with a recognised qualification and post-qualification experience with a major firm of accountants plus practical expertise gained in a large industrial, publicly quoted company and familiarity with Head Office reporting procedures. They must be highly motivated, prepared to work to tight deadlines, deal successfully with senior management and motivate supporting personnel.

This appointment offers excellent experience and the opportunity to develop one's career in a large and expanding Group and thus, the post attracts a correspondingly attractive compensation package including car, profit share and bonus. Removal costs will be reimbursed if necessary.

Candidates should write in strictest confidence enclosing a fully detailed CV plus current salary and quoting MGS/7164 to Michael R. Andrews, Executive Selection Division, Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY.



Business Needs Experts

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

A Lloyd's Broker with international connections wishes to appoint an Assistant to the present Financial Director with a view to succession within three years. Candidates must be qualified and between 35 and 45 with practical experience of Lloyd's broking and the insurance market. They must also have the financial flair to assist in creating opportunities to expand the group. Practical experience in Data Processing will be essential. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience.

Write Box A902, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF

West End CA

Requires young CA for general audit and professional work. No sex discrimination. Also, retired CA to undertake assignments on freelance basis.

Write Box A902
Financial Times
10 Cannon St, London EC4A 3DF

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Our London Market insurance operations are developing and we are now seeking an Accountant to take responsibility for managing the financial accounting function and for the implementation and further development of a new computerised accounting system.

Candidates must possess a recognised accountancy qualification together with several years' experience in commerce or industry. This must include familiarity with computerised systems but previous experience in the insurance industry is not essential.

Equally important are the personal qualities that will enable the person appointed to liaise effectively at subsidiary Board level and to lead and motivate staff, working within tight schedules and identifying possibilities for improvement.

This position is based in our Croydon office and the salary will be not less than £14,000 per annum, in addition to which are excellent fringe benefits including a mortgage subsidy and a non-contributory pension fund.

If you would like to be considered please send full career details in confidence to: Mr. J. Atkinson, Group Assistant General Manager, Minster Insurance Group, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9BJ or telephone our 24-hour Answering Service on 01-283 2792 for an application form.



FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

London

£18-25K + Car

Our client is a US f.m.c.g. brand leader with international trading activities throughout the World.

Due to sustained growth they wish to recruit a young, qualified accountant as a key member of their Mediterranean executive team.

You will be responsible for financial reporting to the corporate centre. Responsibilities include the analysis of high value ad hoc projects, cash flow forecasts, budgeting and the provision of management information.

Aged 28-32, you will be self-confident, articulate with a good track record and strong entrepreneurial skills. Salary will depend upon age and post qualification experience.

Your name will not be released until we have briefed you and you have given your consent. Please write enclosing full CV to me, John Hardy, Consultant to the Company. All details are handled in strict confidence.

Business Development Consultants (International) Ltd
63 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN.



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, KENT

Minimum £25,000 + Car + Stock Option

Denstrom International is a rapidly growing International Electronics Marketing Company with subsidiaries in the UK, USA and Japan. Reporting to the Chairman, the Director of Finance will be completely responsible for managing and developing finance and data processing activities, including corporate treasury functions, inventory control systems and negotiations with corporate investors and bankers. As a member of the executive management group he or she will be expected to contribute significantly to the Company's overall development and profitability.

The successful applicant will be a qualified accountant or MBA in the 30-45 age range, with considerable international financial experience. Ideally this experience will have been gained in a fast moving marketing and distribution environment. Considerable emphasis will be placed on personal qualities - a manager and strong leader of people with a persuasive nature, able to influence and manage change in a rapidly expanding environment. This is an outstanding position providing an excellent career opportunity for an ambitious and talented Financial Manager. The attractive negotiable remuneration package includes re-location assistance and reflects the importance the Company places on this appointment.

Write in confidence
with career details
to:-

Mr. C. Hardcastle, Chairman
Taylor Miller Group,
Unit 4, Airport Trading Estate,
Biggin Hill, Westerham
Kent TN16 3BW



DENSTROM INTERNATIONAL

CONTROLLER

A major petrochemical group seeks a young, ambitious accountant with proven management ability. Supervising a small professional staff, responsibilities will include recommending financial policy to the Managing Director, implementation of a new financial reporting system and maximising return on short term investments. Applicants should be qualified accountants with at least three years commercial experience and a working knowledge of Italian. Ref: CW.

W. LONDON £20,000 + Car

FINANCE MANAGER

A leading US pharmaceutical company can offer excellent career prospects to an ambitious, commercially aware accountant. Controlling all financial aspects of overseas operations in Africa, the Near East and Eastern Europe, key responsibilities include forecasts, budgets, review of business methods and assessment of operating performance. Candidates should possess good communication skills and a proven track record, preferably within a US multinational. Ref: GR.

HERTS £17,500

GROUP ROLE

Our client is a major group manufacturing and distributing products for the home improvement and furniture industries. A young, enthusiastic qualified accountant is required to strengthen the Head Office function and to assist with future expansion. This is a new position with key responsibilities for group accounting, forecasting, treasury analysis and may require visits to various operating units. Ref: SW.

CITY £16,000 + Car

ROMAN HOUSE, WOOD STREET, LONDON
EC2Y 6BA. 01-638 5191

ROBERT HALF

LONDON BIRMINGHAM NEW YORK & 82 OTHER CITIES WORLDWIDE

INSURANCE ACCOUNTANT

Required by Lloyd's Insurance Brokers based in the City within the Marine Department.

Responsibilities include credit control/account reconciliation with involvement in management reporting and funds management.

Applicants must have had previous experience with Lloyd's Brokers and computerised systems would be an advantage.

Please write for further details enclosing C.V. to:

Mrs P.M. Hogden
Harris & Dixon (Insurance Brokers) Ltd,
21 New Street, Bishopgate,
London EC2M 4HH.

Accountancy Appointments

Financial Director



London

£30,000+car & benefits

PPL is the largest independent UK supplier of application software packages. The Company is expanding rapidly both by organic growth and by acquisition; turnover is now around £10 million. The Company is very profitable and plans a full stock market or USM listing by 1986.

The Finance Director will report to the Chairman and will be responsible for all accounting and reporting for PPL, as well as monitoring the financial performance of other group companies particularly those in North America and the Middle East.

Candidates should be qualified accountants, probably aged over 35, with experience of all aspects of financial management. In view of the Company's plans, the ability to negotiate at a senior level with City institutions is desirable.

The personal qualities needed to succeed in this dynamic working environment include determination and initiative with good communication skills.

Please reply to Julian Wolf in strict confidence with details of age, career and salary progression, education, qualifications, and daytime telephone number, quoting reference 1462/FT on both envelope and letter.

**Deloitte
Haskins + Sells**

Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

Financial and business administration director

to £60,000



With a reputation for technical excellence and innovative product development, this British engineering group is a market leader in its sectors of the international capital goods market. Turnover is in excess of £150 million with significant contributions from overseas subsidiaries.

Working closely with the Group Managing Director, your role will be far-reaching, with the emphasis on business and profit planning, financial appraisal and the performance monitoring of operating units worldwide.

Apart from responsibility for the co-ordination of financial affairs, you will be fully involved in the strategic planning, administration and management of the group.

Aged from 40, applicants should be Financial Directors of major public manufacturing or engineering companies, working to a wide-ranging commercial remit, or, having held such a position, they may already have made the move into general management.

Please write, in complete confidence, enclosing a c.v., to M C Ward, Executive Selection Division, Ref: R405.

**Coopers
& Lybrand
associates**

Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited
management consultants

32 Farringdon Street
London EC4A 4AQ

Chief Accountant

c.£17,500

Central London

Health screening and preventive medicine is an expanding sector which is led by BUPA Medical Centres. With a network of Health Centres spanning the country, we are a growing force in a fast-developing market.

As a direct result of promotion, we are now looking for a Chief Accountant. Someone who can confidently assume responsibility for the total provision of financial services to BMCL Management and the main Board as well as for the management of Medical Centre accounting functions.

It's a demanding role which calls for an able, qualified, or possibly part qualified, Accountant. A professional with proven management experience who can lead and motivate a team of eleven people as well as demonstrate a firm grasp of computerised systems accounting techniques.

The starting salary (which includes London weighting), career prospects and the comprehensive benefit package - including free BUPA and life assurance together with a mortgage subsidy after a qualifying period, reflect the importance of this senior management position.

Please telephone for an application form and further details, or write with a full c.v. to Mrs. K. Youl, Personnel Manager, BUPA Medical Centre, Battle Bridge House, 300 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DU. Tel: 01-837 6484.

BUPA
Medical Centre

AMES ADVERTISING

4A BIRKHEADS ROAD, REIGATE, SURREY RH2 0AR Tel: REIGATE (073 72) 22491

Our client, a highly successful organisation whose technical innovations and profit progression over the last 10 years, have earned them an enviable reputation, requires a

FINANCIAL MANAGER

This is a newly created post based at their London office resulting from both recent and planned acquisition growth. Accountable to the Corporate Finance Director, the successful applicant's duties will include financial accounting, taxation planning, treasury function and investment appraisal.

Applications are invited from qualified Chartered Accountants, male or female, with a minimum of 3 years post qualification experience. The position would be most suitable for someone in the profession seeking their first commercial appointment or someone around 30 years of age in the commercial sector seeking a larger well diversified organisation with overseas interests.

The rewards for this post, which are in keeping with a successful progressive organisation, include competitive salary and company car.

All applications will be forwarded direct to our client, therefore, please enclose a separate list of companies to which your application should not be sent.

Please write in the first instance giving details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary to:

Ames Advertising (Ref: 5400/TF) 4A Birkheads Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0AR

Major Retail & Wholesale Group FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Herts/Middx Borders

c.£25,000 + Executive Car

Join the Board of a fast expanding Retail Group • Assume complete control of all Financial, Treasury & Administrative Functions • Advise on Computer Applications • Be an integral member of the Executive.

Our Client: One of the UK's oldest and most successful Retail Groups • Well situated units in 40+ U.K. Towns • Fast expanding with substantial wholesale interests • Second generation family management, now anxious to introduce a profit improvement programme and growth phase • The Group is cash rich and has a strong asset base; it is not geared.

Your Role: Reporting directly to the Deputy Chairman/Chief Executive, you will have complete responsibility for • Financial & Management Accounting • Treasury Management • Introduction of an improved management reporting & appraisal pack • Closely monitoring weekly performance • Budgeting & Variance reporting • Introduction of additional computer applications • New Site viability assessments • Counselling Retail & Wholesale companies management • Generally being an integral member of the closely knit executive team, responsible for the evolution of the business.

Our Ideal Candidate: An ambitious and highly commercially orientated Chartered Accountant aged 28 yrs-40 yrs, with a sound knowledge of Retail operations. You will • Enjoy responsibility • Be a strong manager with a total preparedness to have total involvement • Demonstrate the proven expertise to introduce modern accounting methods which are computer led.

Remuneration Package: A generous remuneration package will be provided to include: High basic salary + bonus + company car + pension + medicare + 4 weeks holiday.

ACT NOW! To learn more, telephone or write (in the strictest of confidence) providing a comprehensive curriculum vitae to the Board's Adviser: Mr. Michael A. Silverman (Director), on 01-388 2051 (24 hour answer phone: 01-388 2051) Quote Ref: 889



MERTON ASSOCIATES (CONSULTANTS) LIMITED

Merton House, 70 Grafton Way, London W1P 5LN

Executive Search and Management Consultants

Financial Controller

Manufacturing
North West

c. £20,000
+ car

A substantial and successful privately controlled manufacturer of soft furnishings, located in an attractive part of North West England, is seeking to appoint a financial controller to play a key role in the future development of the business.

The initial priorities will be to take over responsibility for all aspects of the financial control function and for the further development of the accounting and management reporting systems and to steer through essential improvements to the company's computer-based manufacturing systems. In the longer run a wider management role is envisaged and an early appointment to the board is planned.

The position demands an experienced and capable accountant (preferably chartered) who knows how to apply computer systems successfully in a manufacturing environment and whose longer term aims are oriented towards general management. The probable age range is 33-40.

If you feel you meet these requirements, please write in confidence, setting out brief career and personal details to Mr. C. J. McBride, Executive Selection Division, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., City Square House, 7 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DW, quoting reference number L/307.

**PEAT
MARWICK**

AUDIT MANAGER STOCKBROKING/SECURITIES

To complement its developing activity in the stockbroking/securities market the BAI Group wishes to expand its Internal Audit Department through the creation of a specialist position of Internal Audit Manager - Securities.

The successful candidate will have primary responsibility for the internal audit of all aspects of the Group's stockbroking/securities operations which, following deregulation, will play an increasingly important role in its UK activities.

Ideally, applicants should be aged between 28 and 40, hold an accountancy qualification and have excellent analytical and communication skills.

Additionally they will have gained practical experience of securities operations management and be fully conversant with the audit of such activities.

Salary by negotiation.

Applicants should apply in writing, with a full curriculum vitae, to:

The Director of Audit
Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement Group
BAI Management Services EC
77 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5TA

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

£30,000 & CAR

CITY

My client, an established and leading Group in the Flat Glass Industry, has glazing contracting, glass merchandising and manufacturing subsidiaries mainly in the U.K., with corporate headquarters close to London Bridge.

As Financial Director, you will be part of the Group Board, a small team improving the efficiency and profitability of the Group.

Responsible for the accounting function and with total involvement on all aspects of financial policies, systems and planning, your entrepreneurial, business and decision making skills will be utilised to the full.

Candidates should have a manufacturing background ideally from the Construction or similar type industry and be well educated ACA/FCA's with boardroom experience probably aged 35 to 45.

Please write in strict confidence, enclosing a full C.V., to Bob Levine

RJL MANAGEMENT & RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
2, Beulah Close, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8SP
Tel: 01-958 7343

RJL

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Our clients are a rapidly expanding computer company with offices in St. James and the Strand. The company is looking for a qualified accountant with at least two years' experience in commerce, aged under 35 and currently earning not less than £14,000 per annum, to report directly to the managing director.

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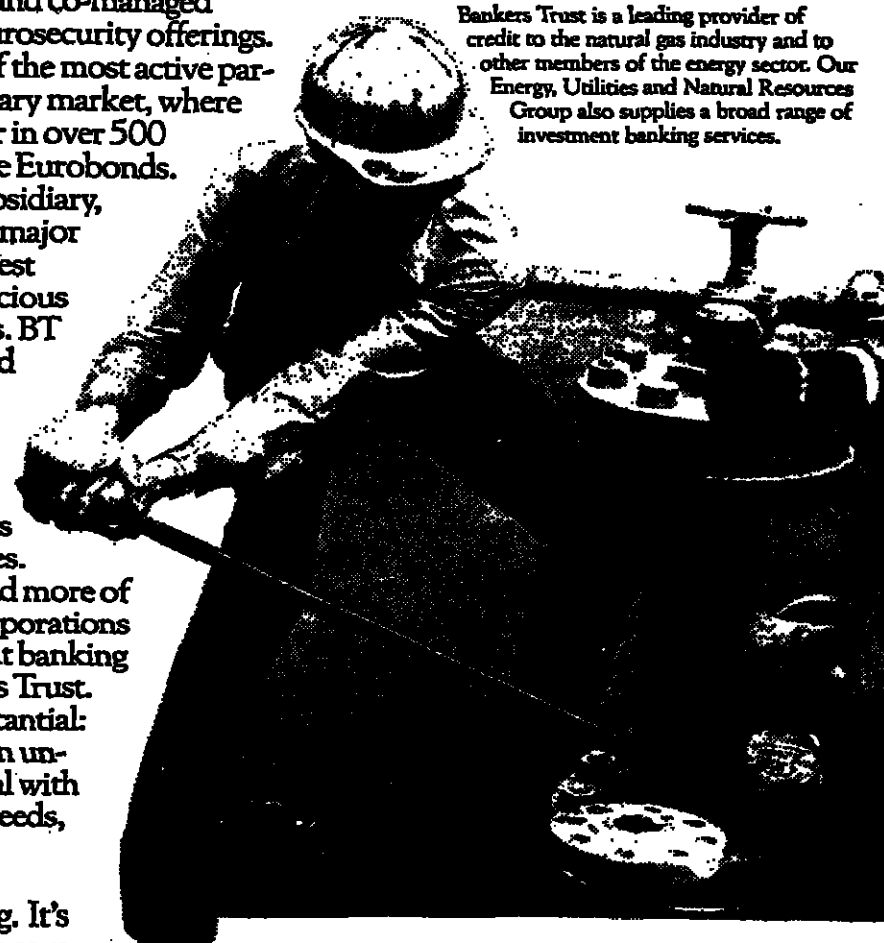
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Thursday June 6 1985

The case for Salt II

THE SECOND Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (Salt II) of 1979 was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, partly in reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, partly because the American right criticised the agreement as unfair.

Nevertheless, both superpowers have until now committed themselves, at least in theory, to the observation of the Salt II limitations pending a new nuclear arms agreement in Geneva. The U.S. Administration is now considering, after consultations with its European NATO allies today and tomorrow, whether to stand by this commitment any longer. President Reagan will announce his decision on Monday.

There can be no reasonable doubt where his decision should lie. A decision must be taken soon, because the next U.S. Trident submarine, the USS Alaska, will start sea trials in the autumn. Since this would carry the U.S. above its Salt II missile limits, observation of the treaty would require the U.S. to remove another, older submarine from its nuclear arsenal. That is what the Administration should do, even if there is a respectable case for a partial decommitment, as a compromise.

Constraints
Inside the Administration, critics of the Salt II treaty also argue that the Soviet Union is already infringing the treaty limits, by developing two new land-based missiles when only one new type is allowed, and by encoding the test signals used in missile testing. Therefore, they say, the U.S. is also entitled to infringe the treaty constraints.

If there is to be any argument in favour of Soviet U.S. infringement, it must be stronger than that. The Soviet Union may be violating the treaty in development terms, but it is not yet deploying more missiles than it is allowed. For the Americans to flout the deployment limits can only incite the Russians to follow suit.

This cannot be in the U.S. interest. So long as the Soviet Union respects the missile ceilings, it could, by the mid-1990s, increase its warheads by some

20 per cent. If missile ceilings are abandoned, the Soviet Union could in the same period increase its warheads by some 50 per cent. If the Americans are worried by the number of Soviet warheads, the inference for U.S. policy must be clear.

If the case against Salt II is that it has failed to prevent a large increase in the numbers of warheads (on both sides), the case in favour is that, in the absence of these treaty limits, proliferation might be even more uncontrolled.

Moreover, Salt II does not, in present circumstances, pose a free-standing dilemma, but must be viewed against the background of the nuclear arms negotiations under way in Geneva. The question facing the U.S. Administration is not whether the existing restraints should be extended in perpetuity, but whether they should be observed pending a better agreement in Geneva.

For the moment these negotiations seem to be making no progress. There is no reason to suppose that the prospects will be improved if the U.S. deliberately announces a decision to overthrow the existing Salt II limits; there is even less reason to suppose that U.S. military security will be meaningfully enhanced by the addition of one submarine.

Dismantle
There is a half-way house which would respect the spirit of Salt II while not quite respecting the letter: to take an old submarine out of active commission, but not to dismantle its missile tubes. In some ways, this might be less satisfactory than full compliance; but it would signal that U.S. compliance will be contingent partly on Soviet compliance, partly on the progress of the Geneva talks.

But whatever the narrow arguments, President Reagan's decision is bound to be scrutinised in Europe as a sensitive indicator of his Administration's attitude to arms control; for Washington's most influential critics of Salt II are also the strongest opponents of arms control in general. If he does not respect Salt II, the world will draw pessimistic inferences about his intentions in Geneva.

The go-ahead for Stansted

NOBODY CAN be more pleased by the White Paper on airports policy than the British Airports Authority (BAA) and nobody less pleased than middle class Conservative voters in Essex. For its twin decisions are to give planning permission for the expansion of Stansted to 15m passengers a year and to privatise BAA as a single entity.

Of the two decisions, the development of Stansted, at the pace recommended by Mr Graham Eyre, QC, who headed the planning inquiry, will be the more unpopular, but the more easily justified. The Government's view is simply that air traffic is set to grow much more quickly over the next 15 years than can be accommodated at Heathrow.

No decision has yet been taken over the construction of a fifth terminal at Heathrow, but because it would involve the relocation of the sludge works at Perry Oaks, there are doubts that it could be expected to be in demand in the early 1990s.

Rapid increase

Projections of air traffic have been available in the past and it was once thought that Heathrow and Gatwick would be unable to cope with demand in the South-east as long ago as the early 1970s. The Department of Transport's latest estimates are that demand will rise from about 47m passengers this year to 77.4m by 1995 and 96m by 2000. This looks a very rapid rate of increase, but it must be remembered that between 1960 and 1984 demand at London's airports rose from 7m to 45m.

Even if the demand projections prove too buoyant, and even though the Government admits "too many travellers from the regions are forced to use the south-east airports," a modest expansion of Stansted looks the only rational solution. A majority of the residents in the Stansted area support expansion and the higher economic activity it will bring. Opponents of its development, at least, have the comfort that expansion will be phased and that growth beyond 7m-8m passengers a year will need explicit parliamentary approval.

The Government also intends to encourage the expansion of Manchester and other regional

airports but given the extent of the present diversion of passengers into the already overcrowded and noise-polluted south-east, its commitment here looks on the weak side. It might be possible to devise some explicit tax-based incentives to encourage airlines to make greater use of regional facilities.

It is easy to understand why Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, has resolved to privatise BAA as a single entity: this is the course of least resistance and is likely to raise the maximum revenue for the Treasury. Once again, however, it seems that the Government may not be giving the goals of greater competition and efficiency the priority they deserve.

It is often argued that competition between airports, especially between those serving the same region, is impossible: the local airports should provide complementary services for airlines between which the real competition can occur. This view is strongly challenged in a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) also published yesterday. The IFS is highly critical of BAA's present charging policies and implies that little will change unless the ownership of the three main London airports is divided.

Uneconomic
The IFS report maintains that because BAA uses its highly profitable commercial services (food, drink and retailing) to finance uneconomic charges for airlines, it may be attracting an excessive amount of air traffic to London. If charging policies were more rational then some of the forecast traffic growth which justifies Stansted's expansion would go to other European airports. In other words part of the air traffic headache has been created by BAA's uneconomic pricing.

Mr Ridley's decision to organise BAA's seven airports as separate companies under a single holding company should lead to greater financial transparency and the elimination of some cross-subsidies. However, that outright independence for the South-east airports would allow real competition and ease regulatory problems following privatisation needs to be carefully considered by the Government.

THE REIGN of Mr Roger Smith, the rather mild-looking accountant who became chairman of General Motors four years ago, is now unquestionably the most significant in the company's post-war history.

This 58-year-old veteran, widely written off as a grey Mr Average when he moved into the chairmanship, could scarcely have demonstrated his determination to change the direction of the company more than by taking over Hughes Aircraft.

The announcement yesterday that GM is to pay \$5bn for Hughes ends weeks of speculation about the fate of the Californian electronics, aerospace and defence group. Earlier this year the company had been put up for sale by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a move which attracted some of the biggest names in Corporate America.

Hughes Aircraft is the high technology end-product of the machine shop where Howard Hughes, the brilliant, eccentric homo universalis of 20th century U.S. business, built his first racing planes.

The company has grown into one of the top 10 U.S. defence contractors, with a glittering list of products, including most of America's spy satellites and the first spacecraft to land on the moon. The challenge for GM is to link Hughes' electronics, high technology and endless search for new products, to the methodical engineering traditions of the motor industry.

Mr Smith said yesterday that such a linkage is vital to GM's future. "You have got to have the Hughes' and the EDSs (the data-processing company GM acquired last year) to be a player out there in the 21st century. We are going to build our company for the 21st century — we are not just going to stumble into it backwards."

Even before yesterday's announcement, Mr Smith had put his own very individual stamp on GM. After a shaky start, when his outspokenness threatened serious embarrassment, he has driven GM into so many new fields that this lumbering giant of manufacturing industry has begun to look almost entrepreneurial.

It has got together with Toyota, the U.S. motor industry's main Japanese rival, in a controversial small car manufacturing operation in California, pushed through a wrenching management reorganisation, negotiated a radical new wages system in a tense face-off with the Auto Workers' union and, last summer, launched its first big diversification move — the \$2.5bn acquisition of Electronic Data Systems, the world's premier independent data-processing company.

Mr Smith also threw the normal caution of the industry to the winds by telling the world that GM had embarked on one of the most ambitious new product developments in the history of the industry.

As a result, the Saturn project to produce a small car capable of taking on the Japanese has become a real hostage



Roger Smith GM's chairman (left), moving into an area of high technology pioneered by the late Howard Hughes (right)

to fortune.

The acceptance of risks of this sort are now clearly characteristic of the Smith regime. There are conservatives within GM, for example, who fought the EDS deal from the start and still think it will be a disaster. Part of the idea in buying the data processor was to give GM an integrated information system that would link the factory floor with the chairman's office, ridding the organisations of the rigidities that had grown up in the piecemeal development of computerisation in the company.

Inevitably the influx of the EDS new guard has caused enormous friction.

But the acquisition of Hughes Aircraft marks a different sort of risk. Based in California, the aerospace company will be run as a separate entity and will make no immediate challenge to GM's corporate culture. It is also profitable, has a long order book, and an evidently successful management. The question is, though, should GM be spending so much money in an industry about which it knows very little at a time of unparalleled challenge in its own base market?

The challenge has only recently been underlined by a controversial Commerce Department report which argues that imports will increase their share of the U.S. car market from 23.5 per cent last year to 36 per cent by 1988.

The ending of the unofficial quota restrictions on Japanese imports earlier this year is already beginning to gnaw away at the position of the U.S. manufacturers. The Japanese, mean-

while, are stepping up their U.S.-based production and Hyundai of South Korea is putting together a dealership organisation to begin a further attack on the market from South East Asia.

Many people believe that GM should not be taking its eye off this particular ball at the moment to toy with the aerospace sector. "They are using a good chunk of their cash when financial conservatives think it could be better spent buying in their own stock and increasing dividends," says Mr David Healey, a motor industry analyst at the Drexel Burnham Lambert securities house. "If they want to spend their money it should be in the auto business to cut their costs."

Mr Healey and other critics also argue that Hughes' impact on the auto group will be so marginal that it is not worth the price. Despite the glamour and prestige of the aerospace company, it remains a minnow beside its new parent, with sales of around \$5bn against GM's likely \$100bn this year. "It is very difficult for any company the size of GM to diversify

meaningfully," said one motor industry executive yesterday.

At the same time, GM's new acquisition is not cheap. The company is paying roughly 20 times Hughes' estimated 1984 earnings of \$250m, a fairly high multiple for the defence/technology sector these days. As part of its \$5bn deal, it is using up \$2.7bn of its cash hoard to do it.

There is no question that the transaction is entirely within the capacity of the group, since its cash reserves amount to almost \$9bn at present. But it is a price which makes some heavy assumptions about defence industry growth at a time when General Dynamics, the leading company in Hughes' sector, is trading at only eight times its 1984 earnings.

Set against these negative arguments are two overriding concerns for the U.S. car industry: the fact that if it does not diversify it will be caught in an inexorable circle of decline in its traditional business and its feeling that new technology may be the magic ingredient to save it.

| | General Motors Corporation | | Hughes Aircraft | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| | 1984 | 1979 | 1984 | 1979 |
| Sales (\$bn) | 83.5 | 66.3 | 4.9 | 2.3 |
| End-year employees (000) | 745 | 853 | 73 | 53 |
| Long-term debt (\$m) | 2,417.4 | 880.0 | 78.0 | 100.0 |

Research: Rivka Nachoma.

Changes in the air

Inside the BBC, they still do not believe the rumour about Alastair Milne being replaced as director-general by Channel 4 chief, Jeremy Isaacs — at least, not in the near future. The story, which first appeared in the broadcasting world last Christmas, has been energetically revived this week, but those who should know best insist that despite Mr Isaacs' antipathy to what she sees as Milne's arrogance, he will serve for some time yet.

The position of assistant director-general, Alan Protheroe, looks less sure. He was the one who vigorously defended what others saw as the indefensible "when the BBC borrowed" TV's exclusive interview with Princess Michael of Kent without asking.

A sideways move for Protheroe would leave the BBC's fast-rising financial expert, Michael Checkland. His current title is "director of resources, television" and his promotion to Milne's right hand would no doubt find favour with BBC chairman, Stuart Young.

Young (whose brother David has received a peerage and a place in the Cabinet from Mrs Thatcher) is apparently not the greatest of Milne's admirers. One of the senior partners in accountants Harker Young and a director of British Caledonian and Tesco, Young might feel that with The Peacock Committee about to take a hard look at the BBC's finances — the Corporation's financial muscle would be greatly strengthened by moving Checkland nearer to the top of the executive.

Borrowed clothes

What does a government do to raise a cheer after 42 years in office? The answer of the long-ruling Progressive Conservative party in Ontario province, Canada, is to leave a lasting impression by stealing the opposition's clothes.

Men and Matters

The Tories failed to win enough seats for a working majority in last month's provincial election. But they are still going through the rituals of government until the two opposition parties combine to topple them in a no-confidence vote — expected any day.

When the provincial legislature reconvened this week the outgoing government was ready with a startling Throne Speech. Instead of Tory policies, it set out proposals taken straight from the middle socialist manifestos of the opposition Liberal and New Democratic Parties.

Among them were — a freeze on health insurance premiums, preference for provincial contractors with affirmative action programmes, support for renewed import quotas on Japanese cars, and tougher anti-pollution laws.

According to the Liberal leader David Peterson, who is almost certain to be Ontario's next Premier, the Tories' turnabout is a deathbed repentance. "Their way of saying they're sorry."

Power braking

A reshuffle of appointed members to the Hong Kong executive and legislative councils, announced yesterday by the governor, Sir Edward Youde, gave the way for indirect elections to the legislative council in the autumn.

They will mark the first of a series of political reforms aimed at putting more power in the hands of Hong Kong people before the lease runs out in 1997.

If there was a major surprise in the new lists of appointees it was that Sir See-Yuen Chung is to stay on for another three

years as senior unofficial member of the executive council. He took a buffeting during the Sino-British negotiations over Hong Kong's future beyond 1977, taking swipes from the British administration and the Peking authorities alike for his attempts to protect what he saw as the threatened rights of Hong Kong people. He was keen to step down but has been prevailed upon to remain in office during the coming critical period of political transition.

Authorities in Peking, who will doubtless be looking for political signals in the appointments list, will note that some of the colonial government's most swinging critics have been reappointed.

Guernsey crude

Eighteen years ago spilled oil caused havoc to the beaches of Cornwall, Guernsey, and Brittany following the wrecking of the Torrey Canyon off Land's End. Surprisingly, some of the 100,000 tonnes of crude that escaped from the tanker is not only still around, but is about to be cleaned and sold.

The oil has been lying in a disused granite quarry in Guernsey. It was dumped there after the island authorities had sacked about 2,000 tonnes of the stuff off their beaches with a fleet of sewage tanker lorries.

Now the island has done a deal with Petroleum Trading of Hitchin to get rid of the oil lake which as a local official says, "is a damned nuisance."

According to Tony Barnard, joint managing director of PT, it might be possible to recover 1,500 tonnes of fuel oil residual from the quarry that can be sold as blending stock.

He says that the operation, to start shortly, will cost his firm over £100,000, and is "a gamble on what we can recover and the price we can get."

The job will mean erecting a storage tank at the quarry and another at a local harbour ready to ship the oil to Britain or Holland. Under the deal the tank and other equipment will be left on the island as payment for the oil. Barnard hopes to show a 10 to 15 per cent profit on the venture.

Reflections

Publisher Robert Maxwell has been slower than some of his rivals to do "something big" in the U.S. and, when cornered in New York last week, he was typically blunt about the reason.

"I am not going to pay those silly prices that Mr Murdoch, for instance, is paying for his TV stations and magazines," he said. "Quite ludicrous."

Maxwell was offered Murdoch's Village Voice, but refused it; and he said he had no interest in buying Murdoch's loss-making New York Post, which is said to be on the block at \$70m.

But he is enthusiastic about the opportunities in the U.S. media business and stressed to students at New York's Polytechnic Institute — where he was picking up an honorary degree along with Lockheed's Roy Anderson and Pfizer's Ed Pratt — that if they wanted "fame and fortune" they should get into the communications industry.

When he makes a major move in the U.S., it would probably be on the printing or databank sides, Maxwell said. He is already in a joint venture with the Providence Journal and his Pergamon Interlink data service is "doing for science what Reuters is doing for money."

Naturally

Card in a North London shop window: "For sale, sun bed and lamp. Barely used."

No one knows precisely what sort of earnings growth this has generated for the group, although sales have jumped by almost 90 per cent since 1980. But Hughes has managed to be financially self-sustaining during this period, a comforting thought for GM's shareholders who ought not to see vast amounts of cash diverted to expanding the newly-acquired aerospace company.

Presenting the deal "as a truly historic message for GM," Mr Smith's emphasis yesterday fell almost entirely on the electronic wizardry which Hughes is expected to bring to the manufacturing of GM's vehicles. Mr Smith said he had "long believed" that the future of the auto industry was tied up with the introduction of ever more sophisticated electronics under the hood and in the dashboard. The automobile, he added, is still in its infancy in terms of systems. He expects Hughes, for example, to help GM develop collision avoidance radar and locating systems "which would help a driver find his way in unfamiliar territory."

Of equal significance, Mr Smith emphasised the potential gains through linking Hughes' hardware expertise with the software skills of EDS to revolutionise operations on the factory floor. "There is only limited systems engineering expertise in this new area of computerised manufacturing," he said. "Hughes is one of the few organisations that has extensive experience in it."

Wall Street, meanwhile, reacted enthusiastically to this high-tech message yesterday, pushing the shares up by more than a dollar immediately after the deal was announced. Ms Ann Knight, an analyst at Paine Webber, pointed out that there are precedents for this kind of strategy for an auto company. In Japan, she said, Mitsubishi has successfully used its aircraft division to help both with automotive design and engineering.

Ms Knight and others argue that within the next few years, car electronics are going to turn the driving seat into the equivalent of a jet aircraft cockpit. This will require detailed understanding by the motor manufacturers of the interaction of different electronic systems, which have a nasty habit of interfering with each other.

"Aerospace companies have had to be very careful about this, because it is a serious business if an aircraft drops out of the sky," says Ms Knight. But not everyone on Wall Street is so enthusiastic. Some industry experts claim GM could have hired or bred in-house the necessary electronics expertise much more cheaply — and some even doubt that it is needed at all.

"You don't need to go and splash out \$5bn on an aerospace company to tell you that you are at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 59th Street," said Mr Healey yesterday, in a very reference to the location of GM's towering Manhattan headquarters.



Quality in an age of change.

Observer

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE DOLLAR

Prepare for a crash landing

By Anatole Kaletsky

A "CRASHLANDING" of the overvalued dollar, accompanied by a world financial upheaval, becomes more plausible daily. Ironically, the greatest cause for alarm is the recent strength of the dollar, which may still rebound even beyond the stratospheric levels set in February, despite the bearish background of falling interest rates, poor growth figures and signs of accelerating inflation.

Today, such paradoxes are taken for granted by currency markets. The reason, as last week's OECD Economic Outlook anxiously put it, is that "expectations have become the decisive element in determining how far, how rapidly and with what degree of volatility the dollar evolved."

Once expectations take over, currencies can lose touch completely with economic forces or shifts in government policies. If this is happening, governments and central banks may already be powerless — unless they are prepared to reimpose draconian direct controls on international capital movements.

Many politicians and even investors shrug off such warnings as contradictory. The dangers of a resurgent dollar and a collapsing dollar do not cancel each other out. In reality, the world economy is quite likely to suffer from both over the next few years. For worldwide financial deregulation has turned currencies into assets just like shares or gold, and there is no more reason to hope for stability or consistency from exchange rates than there is from the price of gold.

The price which is set by a free market in assets can behave very differently from the market price of ordinary goods. Consider the effects of a rising dollar. In the days before currency became assets and the dollar was simply a token for buying American goods, a rise in the dollar would make American goods more expensive and foreigners would stop buying them. Demand for the dollar would drop, and push the exchange rate back down to its equilibrium level.

Today, the effect of a rising dollar can be quite different.

Because the dollar is an asset in its own right, the more it rises, the more people may want to buy it or be afraid of selling it. In the words of an anonymous foreign exchange dealer who was quoted in the FT more than four years ago: "I know the dollar is overvalued today, and I know it will be more overvalued tomorrow."

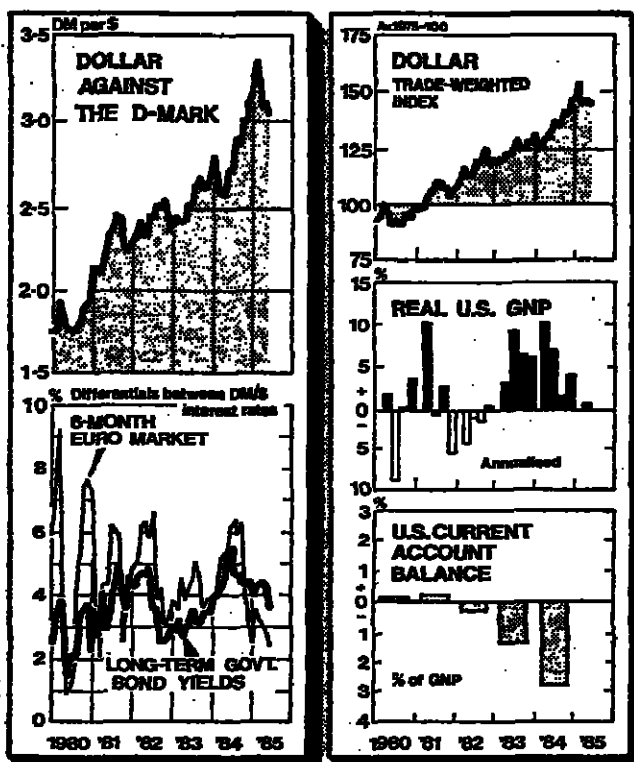
The build-up of such extrapolative expectations, as economists call them, explain why speculative bubbles can form in markets for assets, like Wall Street in 1929 or City of London real estate in 1972, but not in markets for ordinary goods and services — except in bizarre circumstances such as the coffee and laundry paper panics of the mid-1970s.

If exchange rates are now in a speculative bubble with no firm economic underpinning, then it is possible to make just one firm prediction — the least likely course for the dollar in the next few years is a gentle decline.

The IMF, for example, assumes a fall of 5 per cent a year from 1987 onwards in the medium-term projections in its latest World Economic Outlook. In fact, such a protracted fall would almost certainly reverse the expectation of a "dollar years" valued "unimpaired" and thereby reverse the currency's most important prop.

Because the currency would still be overvalued in the sense that the IMF's projections leave the U.S. current account in deficit to the tune of 3 per cent of GNP in 1990, America's foreign debt continuing to mount at a rate of 20 per cent or more a year, extrapolative expectations could become just as powerful on the way up. A soft landing would only be possible if such bearish expectations were offset by some very strong non-speculative forces underpinning dollar demand.

Naturally, economists have tried such forces. The most obvious have been high U.S. interest rates. Interest differentials certainly have played a major role in the dollar's rise, particularly in its early stages; but their explanatory power has been less convincing. Since last year interest differentials have



Leighton Morris

moved against the dollar (see chart) and today's gap of 2.5 percentage points between dollar and D-mark deposits is 0.5 percentage points smaller than it was in 1983 and 1984. Comparisons of bond yields tell a similar story. Yet the dollar today is 30 per cent higher than it was in early 1983.

Other economic arguments have been used to explain the parts of the dollar's performance which interest rates could not reach. Most of these can be summed up under two headings — rapid non-inflationary growth and high after-tax profits. Like interest rates, these arguments seemed plausible enough a year or two ago, when the dollar was 20 per cent or more below its current level, but today they look less persuasive.

U.S. growth rates have dropped precipitously since the middle of last year and inflation is showing signs of edging upwards. Profits and business investment did rebound impressively in 1983 and 1984 from their

recession lows, largely as a result of the 1981 tax cuts which ended up favouring business investment far more than anybody had expected. This tax bias is now to be reversed if President Reagan gets his way.

But even without tax reform, corporate profits have fallen by 11 per cent in real terms since their peak last year. It seems, therefore, that most of the economic fundamentals have turned against the dollar by now. If the dollar remains anywhere near its current levels or returns to its upward trend, which in the short term seems quite likely, the economists will doubtless discover new explanations for the behaviour of exchange rates. But it may be more realistic simply to give up the search for economic reasons and concentrate instead on market psychology and speculative forces.

At first sight, speculation may not seem a promising approach to the dollar puzzle. After all, most currency speculators have been gambling against the

dollar since 1982; and virtually every survey of market opinion for four years has revealed a widespread expectation that the dollar would fall. But speculation can consist not only of acting against economic fundamentals, but also of falling to act as economic fundamentals would suggest. This behaviour can be described as "passive speculation."

According to the conventions of economic theory and national income accounting, all the dollars which flow to Japanese manufacturers or British pension funds as a result of the U.S. current account deficit are immediately converted into yen or sterling by their new owners.

This is not what happens in practice. For many Treasury managers require a positive decision to convert surplus dollars into another currency. Keeping the proceeds of U.S. export sales or investment income in dollars appears to be the passive option.

If you are a fund manager for a Saudi Prince and you change dollars into yen, you suffer a currency loss when the dollar rises; but if you keep your money in dollars and the yen rises, you merely miss out on a currency profit.

As the dollar has risen ever higher, these brave souls who cried active currency management have repeatedly burnt their fingers. This may have demonstrated that the underlying forces behind the dollar's rise were much stronger than anyone had anticipated; but it has also created potent irrational forces — paradoxically, staying in dollars has come to appear increasingly risk averse, the higher the dollar has risen and the more the dangers of an ultimate collapse have grown. This is passive speculation.

There is evidence of this phenomenon in the statistics on U.S. capital flows. Gross inflows of foreign capital into the U.S. have remained roughly stable between \$76bn and \$83bn a year since 1981. Meanwhile, U.S. bank lending fell from \$11bn in 1982 to \$7bn in 1984, and this shift in overseas accounts for America's whole net capital inflow. Like all flow of funds analysis, attributing the U.S. capital inflow to the banks raises a chicken and egg problem.

Instead of wondering why U.S. banks stopped lending

abroad, it can be asked why foreigners went on depositing around \$90bn each year in U.S. securities instead of changing their excess dollars into other currencies?

About half the answer last year came from \$50bn in long-term investment by Japanese institutions and a further \$21bn of U.S. capital inflows due to direct investment in the U.S. That still left \$35bn in bank inflows and other short-term inflows. Much of this flow can probably be described as passive speculation, or what foreign exchange dealers call, less pretentiously, "burnt fingers."

If these burnt fingers have been a major source of the dollar's strength today, the omen for the future could be alarming. With the U.S. current account deficit set to grow by a further \$40bn or so between 1984 and 1986, the U.S. will need \$70-80bn of capital inflows, on top of direct investment and long-term inflows from Japan.

As long as the dollar remains on a rising trend, this need is no problem. Much of the increase in the current account deficit will flow directly to the passive speculators who will automatically reinvest it in dollars and America's capacity to borrow from foreigners will seem unlimited.

But once the dollar's trend turns downwards, extrapolative expectations will go into reverse. Even the long-term Japanese investors may not prove indifferent to short-term currency losses; the passive speculators in the treasuries of industrial corporations and non-Japanese investment funds will soon begin to question the risk-aversion of hanging on to their dollars.

Economic fundamentals will then come back into play; and if the turn does not come soon, investors will see a U.S. economy the trading industries of which have been devastated by the effects of the overvalued dollar. For the dollar bonanza is not just a harmless speculative bid, like a speculative bubble in rare postage stamps or busted Chinese bonds. An overvalued currency is more like a narcotic addiction — the greater the high and the longer it lasts, the less of the addict's health is left by the time the habit is broken.

Some of Britain's will resume his column next week.

Lombard

Life assurance on the hook

By Barry Riley

BEHIND THE scenes, an extraordinary row over the disclosure of commissions is causing turmoil within the life assurance industry. As part of its new investor protection policy framework, the Government is attempting to impose a new principle of "equivalence" upon different investment media. It might seem unremarkable that the Government should try to impose similar regulatory standards upon life assurance and, say, investment in securities. In practice, the proposals are dynamic.

Disclosure has never been life assurance's strong point. Mumbo-jumbo about reversionary bonuses and the like has been deliberately developed to cow an almost wholly ignorant clientele.

The Government has put the case among the pigeons by insisting that intermediaries (such as independent insurance brokers) who profess to select the best policies from the vast range on the market should disclose the commissions they receive. The idea is that clients should be aware that the higher commission paid on one policy rather than another might just affect the adviser's judgment.

But tied agents who only profess to represent one company will not have to disclose their remuneration because they are not holding themselves out as independent.

Howling with anguish, the independent intermediaries and the companies which sell through them are attempting to find ways out of disclosure, which they justifiably fear would kill many prospective sales stone dead. Two possible routes are the invention of a bogus "tied" status, and the development of a standard commissions scale which might satisfy the Government's doubts about independence of judgment.

But there is another route, which is simply to extend disclosure right across the industry. The new Marketing of Investments Board could insist that all clients were told how much of their premiums was going into life cover and investments, and how much was swallowed up by commissions, front-end loading and annual charges.

Unit trusts have been doing this for years.

The industry fears that business would slump if clients realised how little of their first year's premiums went into ultimate investments. So, for a time, it might. But there would also be a more positive effect. The industry would have a powerful incentive to develop more economical marketing methods.

Ask an insurance man why commissions on life or pensions business need to be so high, and he will tell you that it is because for every completed contract the salesman has drawn an expensive blank on nine other calls. The successful sales business need to be so high, and he will tell you that it is because for every completed contract the salesman has drawn an expensive blank on nine other calls. The successful sales business need to be so high, and he will tell you that it is because for every completed contract the salesman has drawn an expensive blank on nine other calls.

But by any token this is a highly inefficient marketing process. Given that personal pensions are going to require increasing expertise on the part of the salesman, the system threatens to become even more wasteful in its misuse of skilled manpower.

There is now an opportunity for the new regulatory body, the Marketing of Investments Board, to enforce much greater disclosure with two particular objectives in mind. One is to open the way for the introduction of the mass retailing of standardised products at low charges, perhaps through chain stores. The other is to encourage the growth of a new category of independent adviser who will give unbiased advice for an honest fee paid by the client (the public would have to get used to the fact that good advice cannot be cheap).

At present, such advisers are handicapped by the willingness of a gullible public to swallow the line that advice from a broker or a tied agent comes free. Unfortunately the MIB as it stands is packed with representatives of traditional brokers and direct selling life offices who are much more likely to spend their time squabbling among themselves than in opening the way for entirely new marketing techniques.

In the coming months the life industry will wriggle desperately to be let off the disclosure hook. It must not be allowed to succeed.

Action this day

From the Managing Director, Raparap.

Sir—Why is it a surprise, a delightful but rare surprise, to find a company which makes the decision to install equipment just two days after analysis indicates a saving of £1,000 per month? Usually it takes 12 to 24 months! Assuming that the management agree the savings estimates, is it not incompetence somewhere to delay implementing such proposals? The reasons for delay tend to be financial; "we are not allowed to spend capital" (for a 7 week payback), "we have used our allocation of capital" (where a net positive cash flow was offered for the first months and then the full savings accrued once the capital had been paid for from surplus savings). "We must look carefully at alternatives" (which takes so long that the lost savings exceed the cost of the equipment) . . . etc. Although I know our equipment is particularly good value I supposed that perhaps we were bad at selling it; but I hear that many are finding British industry is loath to spend capital because it has that name (even when the cost is less than the corresponding saved revenue).

The boiler man can pick up the internal phone and spend £5,000 on coal. The engineer may analyse and struggle to reduce the expenditure on coal by £5,000 but because the accounts classify one pocket of green notes as different from the other, he may not spend anything to achieve the results. No wonder engineers are demoralised and city slickers (and in their way boilermen) admired. I find I am not alone in believing that the unemployment is largely caused by the accountants.

Were it not for the reluctance of directors to accept even positive cash flow offers eagerly, our employment would double. If ideas from 1,000 small companies like ours had been implemented some while ago, a much greater group would not even have had to have a rights issue! Perhaps our Chambers of Commerce should start a club restricting membership to those who act on good ideas within the week.

(Sir) Savile Burdett, 35, Park Avenue, Solihull, W. Midlands.

Demonstrations in Iran

From Mr M. Khosravi

Sir—In her article (May 18) regarding the peaceful demonstrations that were held in Iran the day before at the request of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, leader of the National Move-

Letters to the Editor

ment of Iranian Resistance (NAMIR). Kathleen Evans made a serious error. She reported that the "People's Mojahedin Organisation" had teleaxed "all major companies" in Iran, asking them to alert people to Mr Bakhtiar's request. Quite apart from the fact that a small band of leftist dissidents do not constitute "the main opposition" to Khomeini, it would be highly unlikely that the Mojahedin would act in support of any initiative that is undertaken by Dr Bakhtiar or NAMIR.

In fact, it was NAMIR that sent more than 3,000 telexes as part of a major campaign involving a number of other significant steps, which ensured the success of the demonstrations and alerted the outside world to the fact that Iranians are sick and tired of Khomeini and would accept the leadership of Shapur Bakhtiar.

Mohammad Khosravi, For the Executive Council, NAMIR-NK, P.O. Box 313, London, W2

Court of Human Rights

From the Director, British Institute of Human Rights

Sir—Your leader "U.K. and the Court of Human Rights" on May 30 deals substantially and very well with the immigration question following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights that the U.K. was in breach of the European convention of human rights in not allowing three foreign husbands to join their respective wives resident in the U.K.

It is not quite correct, however, to say that the number of cases reaching the court from different countries depends on whether its citizens have direct access to the court. Only the Commission, or the Government if it is inadmissible by the Commission and even admitted cases may never reach the court as they may be settled before the Commission or decided by the Committee of Ministers.

I agree with the reason given that there may be a comparative lack of domestic remedies

as the U.K., alone of the member states, has neither written constitution nor effective Bill of Rights. Another important reason is the great activity, not seen in other member states, of specialist non-governmental organisations in sponsoring individual cases.

I hold records of all admitted individual cases and in particular have just completed a report on all cases against the U.K. resulting in various forms of positive action being taken by HMGO. It is interesting to note that such action has taken place in all cases where the court or Committee of Ministers has found a violation by the U.K., or where the Commission has approved a settlement between the parties at an earlier stage.

A. B. McNulty, 17 Russel Square, WC1

People are the problem

From Mr J. T. Cope

Sir—One reason why it takes longer to rebuild escalators (Anatole Kaletsky, May 17) than it took to build entire stations is that the builders have passengers to contend with. Much of the heavy work can be done only in the few short hours at night when the station is closed to the public. This explains the apparent lack of activity at times. The only practical alternative—closing the station completely—is unlikely to appeal to passengers.

J. T. Cope, Operations Director, London Underground.

Underground movement

From Mr N. Hopkins

Sir—Before Anatole Kaletsky becomes too depressed with his comparison of Victorian construction engineering with that of today (Lombard, May 17) I wonder if I may draw his attention to the current Docklands Railway Contract?

Here the Mowlem/GEC joint venture is designing, constructing and commissioning some 8 miles and £58m of very sophisticated passenger railway, in little more than two years. None of it is passing through the undisturbed underground, enjoyed by our ancestors; it is all on the busy surface. Some

follows old railway viaducts while the rest uses new ground-level and elevated structures, including the spanning of the Millwall Docks in the Isle of Dogs.

The fact that Mowlem was responsible for constructing much of London's original "tube" may be deemed to give us a bit of a start. More probable is the fact that the "tube" form of contract gives GEC and ourselves total responsibility for delivering the system. Even so, a work rate of £2m or more a month should give the project a healthy something to cheer about.

N. Hopkins, John Mowlem and Co, Westgate House, Ealing Road, Brentford.

Airports and passengers

From the Chairman, Cass Group

Sir—The squabble between British Airports Authority and British Airways illustrates again the low priority they give to the requirements of passengers. The passengers continue to suffer the discomfort of overcrowded facilities and pay the bills for this waste of money.

Since the design and building of Terminal 4 there must have been sufficient time to decide how to use the building. If British Airways does not wish to move, let the other airlines do so, who will I am sure appreciate the new facilities and make good use of them in the interest of their passengers.

Edie V. Cass, Crabtree Road, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey.

Violence on TV

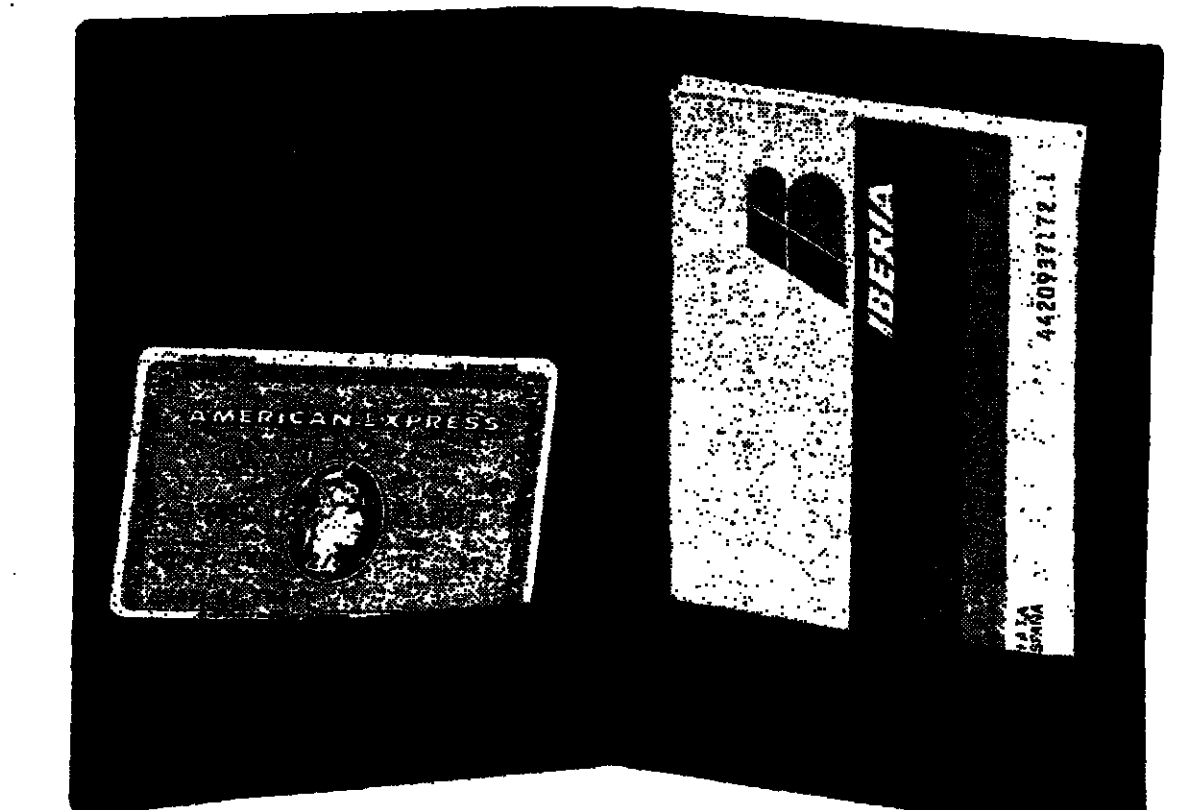
From Mr M. Tidmarsh

Sir—Christopher Dunkley in "Brutality and Compassion" (June 1) writes that he is aware of no evidence to show that even the disgusting quantities of violence in today's national (TV) series . . . has any effect on our reactions when it comes to the real thing.

Earlier he comments that only a recluse would fail to know from experience that "men and women all over Britain broke down and cried" at the scenes from Hayzel Stadium.

Perhaps he would explain the conditions under which experience can be counted as evidence? In any event were his second (quoted) comment true what bearing do the responses of compassionate TV viewers have on the actions of those, presumably, of other viewers who engage in violence?

Mannes Tidmarsh, The Old Court, Greens Norton, Near Worcester, Northants.



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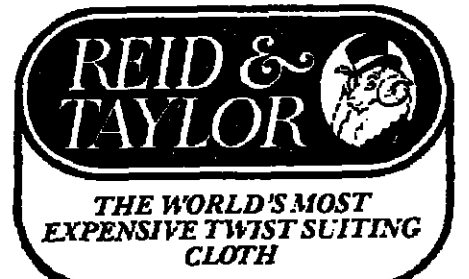
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SECTION II - COMPANIES & CAPITAL MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Thursday June 6 1985



Warner may face new bid battle

By Terry Byland in New York

WARNER Communications, the film and entertainment group, rose by 5 1/4 to 52 3/4 in New York yesterday as a serious dispute with Chris-Craft Industries, its largest stockholder, seemed to put Warner on the takeover block once more.

Chris-Craft, which took a 28 per cent stake - later raised to 29 per cent - in the film company last year in a deal which effectively held off Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper and TV magnate, said in an SEC filing that it had ended discussions with a Warner management group regarding a proposed buyout and was considering making a tender offer for Warner, either alone or with others.

The move follows hints of a serious rift between Chris-Craft, headed by Mr R. J. Siegel, and Warner board members last year when the chairman, Mr Steve Ross, who has sought to make the company private through a buyout.

Warner turned in an increased loss of \$588.1m last year, despite disposal of the loss-plagued Atari computer unit, and has been selling assets.

BankAmerica credit rating cut by S & P

By William Hall in New York

STANDARD & POOR'S, the U.S. credit rating agency, yesterday lowered BankAmerica's commercial paper ratings following the bank's admission that it would probably only break even in the current quarter.

S & P, which had already cut the group's long-term debt ratings in March, yesterday lowered its rating on BankAmerica's paper from A-1 plus to A-1. This will increase its cost of borrowing and, more seriously, again highlight the concerns of the investment community about the bank's performance.

Some Wall Street analysts now wonder whether BankAmerica will cut its dividend, which has been held unchanged at 32 cents a quarter for several years.

On Wall Street the bank's shares continued to fall in heavy trading yesterday. By lunchtime they were standing at \$19 1/4 - down 25 cents. Several analysts have downgraded their 1985 earnings estimates for the company to between \$1.80 and \$2 for the full year compared with \$1.77 in 1984.

Transco to buy Exchange Oil

By Our Financial Staff

TRANSCO ENERGY, the U.S. gas pipeline and energy exploration group, is increasing its proven reserves sharply with an agreement in principle to acquire Exchange Oil & Gas from Georgia-Pacific, the forest products group, for about \$180m.

Transco, based in Houston, said the deal represented an opportunity to acquire significant proven on-shore reserves of more than 100bn cu ft of gas equivalent, as well as other assets including working capital and undeveloped oil and gas properties.

EUROBONDS

Iceland wins support with high margin

BY MAGGIE URRY IN LONDON

INVESTORS in floating-rate notes are demonstrating a clear preference for higher interest margins. Despite a generally dull market for floaters, Iceland met a good response yesterday for a \$125m issue which pays interest at 1/4 per cent over six-month London interbank offered rate (Libor).

The issue, which has a 15-year life with put options in years 10 and 12, was increased from \$100m and still traded comfortably inside the 25 basis point front-end fees. Japanese investors in particular are showing resistance to the decline in margins which has been occurring in the floater market.

The issue for Crédit Lyonnais launched on Monday was also increased, yesterday from \$250m to \$300m and was trading well inside its fees too.

The fixed-rate Eurodollar bond market was lacking new issues once more as the surge in the New York market continued making it more attractive for borrowers to launch issues there. Although Eurodollar bonds gained 1/4 to 1/2 point

SAS, the Scandinavian airline, after successfully engineering one of the most remarkable turnarounds in the history of the industry, is now trying to pull yet another rabbit out of its hat.

Faced with a major SKr 25bn (\$3.01bn) fleet replacement programme, the group is seeking to double its profits before extraordinary items immediately from the SKr 722m achieved last year, to implement a far-reaching and potentially controversial organisational change and to improve cost efficiency by 25 per cent over the next five years.

It seemed well on its way towards the first goal until several recent setbacks. For the first six months to March, group profits after financial items climbed more than the SAS Service Partner subsidiary returned to profit, and all signs pointed to an SKr 1bn plus year.

Then came the double shocks of large Danish and Swedish strikes which shut down the vital Copenhagen and Stockholm airports, and cost the airline an estimated SKr 350m in the second half.

Mr Jan Carlzon, the group's president, now predicts its full-year result will only be "on level" with the 1983-84 figure - although independent analysts are slightly more optimistic.

It was Mr Carlzon who pushed through a restructuring scheme that took the airline from losses of SKr 88m in 1980-81 to profits of SKr 292m, SKr 583m and SKr 792m in the three consecutive years.

The scheme involved cutting unprofitable routes, centralising the organisation, introducing a special business class service for full-fare paying passengers and improving both punctuality and the quality of customer service.

As a result the group boosted its passenger traffic some 25 per cent during the period in an otherwise stagnant market, improved its market share of full-fare paying passengers and increased its average load factor from 59 to 64 per cent.

Moreover, the group began to offer a "total travel package", including hotel accommodation and ground transport, although it is still the airline which generates nearly 90 per cent of the group's earnings and almost 80 per cent of its turnover.

Today, its immediate problem is how to cope with the high costs of operating out of the Nordic area - 20 per cent above the average in the 20-member Association of European Airlines - and to generate the reserves required to finance the replacement of its entire fleet of 60 DC 8s starting in the late 1980s.

How the Scandinavian airline plans to double profits

Flattening the SAS management pyramid

BY DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

"The capacity expansion is on the low side relative to the traffic growth we are experiencing both on the European side and on the domestic Swedish and Norwegian markets," says Mr Nils Molander, the finance director.

A SKr 3bn annual investment over 10 years requires income after financial items of between SKr 1.3bn and SKr 1.5bn, and "we have to cut our cloth according to profit levels...if profits aren't good enough we can't go on investing."

Moreover, the management faces the longer-term problem of positioning SAS for an expected relaxation in the European regulatory environment.

"Our goal is to be able to survive and expand in an environment of free competition," says Mr Carlzon. "We know - as Air France and British Airways know - that if the market were thrown open today we wouldn't stand much of a chance."

Mr Carlzon has set out three major objectives for the group in a new five-year plan announced last week.

First, the airline must improve its hub and route structure in a continuing attempt to be "the preferred airline of frequent business travellers." Second, to take better control over its sales and information system and also to improve its cost efficiency by 25 per cent in five years.

SAS plans to introduce a more frequent shuttle-type flight service in the Scandinavian market, which makes up some 19 per cent of total air traffic revenue, to make better use of its existing resources. The frequency strategy also applies to the more competitive international routes but is subject to more difficult negotiations.

In Europe, which makes up 50 per cent of total air traffic revenue, the group hopes over the next five years to introduce a more flexible pricing system to improve load factors from already relatively high levels and spread demand.

SAS currently has two fares on its European routes - economy and promotional Apex-type. But "this price instrument is fairly coarse to use," says Mr Molander. "If we could have a wider spectrum of low fares which were directly linked to cabin factors on specific days, we could work the market much better."

SAS is developing a new information distribution system which is aimed at making it possible to fine-tune fares up to the final moments before flight-time.

The group is also working to develop Copenhagen's Kastrup airport as an important European gateway, in hopes of reversing the gradual loss in long-haul Scandinavian traffic to airlines using other

Continental terminals such as Schiphol which have the advantage of better transit and shopping facilities.

In the long-run the efficiency drive is perhaps the most potentially controversial part of Mr Carlzon's five-year plan. SAS has begun negotiations with its 38 unions in Norway, Denmark and Sweden in an attempt to introduce what, by European standards, is perhaps an unheard of degree of flexibility in job definition.

"The aim is to handle many more passengers with less input of capital and costs," says Mr Molander. "Our whole cost structure is geared up to peaks. Imagine what kind of efficiency you would have if all your check-in counters were staffed by administrators during the peak hours."

What this means in practice is that SAS hopes over the coming months to flatten out its management pyramid, eliminating several layers of middle-level administrators and increasing the number of front-line personnel.

An airline could not carry more passengers than its station and sales people, or stewardesses could handle, Mr Carlzon said. "If we could use our existing resources to extend our 'frontline', we could au-


 SAS president
Mr Jan Carlzon

tomatically increase our potential market without adding costs."

How realistic is this strategy? "This is going to create a lot of problems for us," admits Mr Carlzon. "We'll have conflicts, but we've got to work with our people to get them to see this is in our common interest."

Wang set for loss in fourth quarter

By Our New York Staff

WANG Laboratories, the Massachusetts-based office equipment manufacturer, gave a further indication yesterday of the problems facing the U.S. computer industry when it forecast a fourth-quarter operating loss for fiscal 1985 and said it was reducing its workforce by 5 per cent, or about 1,500 people.

The company said lower than expected levels of business had caused a build-up in stocks. Savings from cost-cutting programmes had also been less than expected. The company said it had "delayed salary and wage increases for six months and taken other action to reduce operating costs."

Wang said it expected to be profitable for the full year and to see a recovery in fiscal 1986. Profits were already down by about one third in the first nine months of this year, and the swollen inventories will require "valuation adjustments" at the year-end.

Last year, Wang earned \$73.7m, or 52 cents a share, for the final quarter and \$210.2m - \$1.32 per share - on sales of \$2.2bn for the full year.

The company has suffered both from the slowdown and tougher competition in the U.S. small business computer market and from the strength of the dollar, which hurts it in overseas markets where it sells nearly a third of its products.

Wang stock made a delayed start in New York yesterday and later slipped by 5/8 to \$16 1/4. Other computer and high-technology stocks, which have recently absorbed poor trading news from elsewhere in the industry, including a warning on second-quarter profits from IBM, remained firm yesterday as Wall Street soared to new heights.

Wang is a leading producer of word processors, which represent about 40 per cent of revenues, and also produces small-to-medium computers.

Bankers Trust wins right to trade paper

By Our Financial Staff

ATTEMPTS by U.S. banks to become a force in the \$200bn U.S. commercial paper market received a boost when the Federal Reserve Board said the commercial paper operations of Bankers Trust, the big New York bank, were authorised under the Glass-Steagall Act, which regulates banks' activities.

The ruling appears to bring to an end a seven-year wrangle which started when the bank began dealing in commercial paper on behalf of its corporate customers in direct competition with Wall Street securities firms. Commercial paper is a short-term unsecured promissory note issued by companies and sold to investors.

In June 1984 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Bankers Trust's commercial paper was a security under law, but it left to the Fed to decide whether the commercial paper activity represented the selling or underwriting of securities. The Act forbids banks from underwriting or dealing in securities.

This week the Fed said the bank's method of placing commercial paper did not constitute selling, underwriting or distributing securities under the law.

Robot licence deal for Sulzer

By John Wicks in Zurich

SULZER Brothers, the Swiss engineering group, is to enter into a licence agreement with American Robot of Pittsburgh.

The move coincides with the creation of a new robot systems division by the Winterthur-based machine-building concern. Sulzer plans interdisciplinary activities with a view to offering customers a complete range of services, from consulting to the delivery of turnkey automation systems.

Losinger result still depressed

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

LOSINGER, Switzerland's leading construction company, again suffered from difficult conditions on the domestic and international building markets last year.

Net profits of the Berne-based parent company, one half of whose capital is held by Enserch Corporation in Dallas, were of a minimal SwFr 81,356 (\$31,780) after 1983 earnings of SwFr 90,761. This tiny profit compares, however, to a massive loss of SwFr 57.6m in 1982, when irregularities in U.S. opera-

tions forced a write-off of SwFr 62.2m.

The 1984 profits are to be carried over into this year's accounts, reducing the brought-over loss total to some SwFr 9.6m.

Losinger, which reports tougher competition both in Switzerland and elsewhere, shows a fall in turnover for last year from SwFr 678m to SwFr 640m, of which SwFr 354.8m against 1983's SwFr 374.1m was accounted for foreign business. Thanks to improved domestic demand, total new-order value rose

slightly over the year to SwFr 565m.

For the current year, Losinger expects no real change in market conditions. However, it does reckon on continued good earnings from the sale of its special building processes.

At the June 21 general meeting, shareholders will be asked to approve the issue of participation certificates (non-voting shares) of SwFr 100 nominal value up to the SwFr 40m level of existing share capital.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

MAY 1985

U.S. \$150,000,000

Marriott
 corporation

Note Issuance Facility

Arranged by

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

Underwriting Banks

Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.

The Bank of Tokyo Trust Company

Banque Nationale de Paris

Crédit Lyonnais

Credit Suisse

Generale Bank

Girozentrale und Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen

Aktiengesellschaft

The Industrial Bank of Japan Trust Company Mitsubishi Finance International Limited

Nassau Branch

Orion Royal Bank Limited

Saudi International Bank

Al-Bank Al-Saudi Al-Alami Limited

Société Générale Alsacienne de Banque

The Sumitomo Bank, Limited

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Sumitomo Finance International

Paying Agents

Bankers Trust Company

 Banque Indosuez
 Luxembourg

Tender Panel and Facility Agent

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

 International bonds service,
 Page 29

Henderson Administration Group plc

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st MARCH 1985

| | | 1985 | 1984 | |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Profit before tax | £000 | 12,485 | 8,732 | Up 43% |
| Earnings per ordinary share* | pence | 67.33 | 46.93 | Up 43% |
| Dividends per ordinary share | pence | 16.00 | 10.00 | Up 60% |
| Net assets | £000 | 18,177 | 10,336 | Up 76% |
| Funds under management | £million | 2,548 | 1,733 | Up 47% |

* Earnings per ordinary share are shown before transfer to initial charges equalisation reserve.

* A year of great significance in the development of the Group.

* These results reinforce our policy of remaining an independent, specialist, international investment management group, where no conflicts of interest exist.

JR Henderson, Chairman

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Henderson Administration Group plc, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA.

The above figures are extracted from the accounts of the Group on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion and the accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Henderson. The Investment Managers.

UBAF

UNION DE BANQUES ARABES ET FRANÇAISES

Balance-sheet as at December 31, 1983 and 1984
(French Francs)

| ASSETS | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Cash on hand, central banks, treasury and postal accounts | 570,019,201 | 414,002,676 |
| Banks and other financial institutions | 32,571,720,280 | 32,347,651,794 |
| Treasury bills, short term money market instruments | 1,229,991,400 | 1,058,248,088 |
| Loans to customers | 12,214,911,244 | 14,765,078,263 |
| Customers' current accounts, overdrafts | 622,882,647 | 815,607,595 |
| Cheques and bills for collection | 68,887,090 | 166,212,467 |
| Accrued receivable, prepaid expenses and sundries | 988,521,078 | 1,504,247,465 |
| Securities held | 1,204,365,089 | 1,810,417,460 |
| Investments in subsidiaries and affiliates | 17,234,919 | 16,932,919 |
| Subordinated loans | 180,000 | 180,000 |
| Fixed assets | 120,884,081 | 111,561,460 |
| Total Assets | 50,009,377,009 | 53,010,540,187 |
| LIABILITIES | 1983 | 1984 |
| Central banks, treasury and postal accounts | 2,323,645,423 | 3,000,304,169 |
| Banks and other financial institutions | 37,871,264,154 | 36,490,772,062 |
| Short term money market instruments | 2,910,350,985 | 1,663,346,830 |
| Deposits from customers | 3,988,680,015 | 3,567,220,358 |
| Special savings accounts | 6,318,530 | 607,149 |
| Certificates of deposit | 446,308,913 | 1,004,762,408 |
| Accounts payable after collection | 68,887,090 | 3,881 |
| Accounts payable, provisions and miscellaneous | 1,609,134,417 | 2,281,736,705 |
| Floating rate bonds | 542,587,500 | 623,480,000 |
| Subordinated convertible loans | 150,000,000 | 150,000,000 |
| Subordinated loans | 290,043,750 | 787,645,000 |
| Reserves | 182,156,382 | 180,861,635 |
| Capital | 250,000,000 | 250,000,000 |
| Total Liabilities | 50,009,377,009 | 53,010,540,187 |

The Annual General Meeting held on May 29, 1985 at the bank's head office, 180, Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, Neuilly-sur-Seine, unanimously approved the balance-sheet and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1984, which showed a net profit of FF 51,025,283.

The General Meeting decided to distribute a dividend of FF 22,500,000 and to transfer to the general reserves the remaining amount of FF 28,525,283.

The General Meeting decided to reappoint for an additional three year period the following Directors: Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud ABUSHADI, Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur represented by Mr. Patrick HAIZET and Commercial Bank of Syria represented by Mr. Jean RAGLAN. It also decided to reappoint Mr. Aboubaker A. AL-GHURIF, Vice-Chairman of U.B.A.F., as Director in replacement of Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and to nominate Mr. Bernard THOLON as Director in replacement of Mr. Jean DEPLASSIEUX, Chairman of Credit Lyonnais.

The same day, the Board of Directors reappointed Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud ABUSHADI as Chairman and elected Mr. Bernard THOLON Vice-Chairman.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

15 Year Leveraged Lease Financing of one BAE 146-100 Aircraft

Lessor:
Manufacturers Hanover Leasing Corp.

Lessee:
Jet Acceptance Corp.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of
British Aerospace PLC

Sub-Lessee:
Aspen Airways Inc.

Debt and Equity
Arranged by:
Barclays Bank Group



INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Carla Rapoport looks at a Japanese industry's successful strategy

Paper makers cut way to recovery

THE WAITING entreaties of Tokyo's waste paper collectors are guaranteed to ruin the sleep of those still in bed on a Sunday morning. But the efficiency of the collection system for old newspapers provides one of the reasons for a marked turnaround in the fortunes of Japan's paper and pulp industry.

For the year to last March, six out of the nine leading paper and pulp companies registered sharp recoveries at the pre-tax level, with most achieving all-time highs in pre-tax profits and sales. For the largely domestic industry, which runs an uncharacteristic trade deficit with the rest of the world, many of the reasons behind this revival are uniquely Japanese.

It is one of Japan's oldest industries, with more than 500 companies supplying the market. Paper and pulp makers were persuaded to accept a programme of rationalisation sponsored by the Ministry for International Trade and Industry (MITI) in late 1983. According to the Japan Paper Association, that programme laid the foundation for the industry's recent recovery.

So far, between 30 and 60 per cent of the targets for capacity shutdowns have already been met. In paper, the industry's main product, for example, 269,000 tonnes out of a total elimination target of 951,000 tonnes have been shut. In containerboard,

850,000 tonnes out of a total target of 1.5m tonnes have been shut to date. The end result will cut 20 per cent of the overall containerboard sector. The targets, according to the JPA, were set by a council which included producers, consumers, academics and MITI officials. The JPA points out

recovery rate from 32.7 per cent of total paperboard and paper production to 50.4 per cent last year. "It is the custom of Japanese households to preserve our national resources," said Mr Kenji Okawa, managing director for the international division of the JPA. In addition

offsetting the drop in newspaper. At the same time, producers were able to hold price inflation to almost zero for the last two years.

As a result of these and other measures, the paper companies last year managed to outstrip the profitability of Japan's overall manufacturing average for the first time, with a 4.3 per cent operating margin compared to a 4.2 per cent margin for industry in general, according to JPA figures.

Looking ahead, the industry is gearing itself for tougher times. Unlike other industries in Japan, the paper and pulp companies have already had to accommodate a fair amount of imports from the U.S. For example, while domestic demand had been increasing by around 1 or 2 per cent a year over the past five years, imports have been increasing by 17 per cent a year.

The U.S., according to the JPA, has been largely responsible for this increase. In 1973, American paper and pulp made up only 11 per cent of imports. Last year, U.S. products amounted for 51.3 per cent of the total. Imports overall have made a reasonable dent in the Japanese market for paper and pulp, amounting to about 10 per cent of the newspaper market, 13.2 per cent of the kraft linerboard sales and 8.5 per cent of unglazed kraft. Exports by the industry are fairly insignificant.

that MITI has no sanctions to levy against those companies which do not comply. Even so, the trade association is reasonably confident that all the targets will be met.

In addition to the government-inspired rationalisation programme, the paper companies have their persistent waste collectors. These men travel about residential communities in small vans with loudspeakers offering free toilet rolls to households which hand over their old newspapers. In the past 10 years they have helped to boost the waste paper

to this increased use of cheap waste paper, energy costs for the paper companies have dropped by 30 per cent over the last five years.

On the demand side, Japan's paper and pulp industry has enjoyed two further bonuses. Unlike America and Europe, demand for its products has remained on a gentle increase for 46 months, about 16 months longer than the usual cycle. The reason for this steady, although modest, strength in demand is that consumers were buying more computer papers and coated papers in the period

Japan's trust banks well ahead

BY OUR TOKYO STAFF

IN CONTRAST to the slowdown seen at Japan's city and regional banks, the country's seven trust banks posted record earnings in the year to March, with combined pre-tax profits ahead by 49.1 per cent. Wider interest rate spreads, strong performance by their international divisions and better commission income from asset trusts underpinned the surge in earnings.

Sumitomo Trust and Banking remained the biggest earner at both the pre-tax and net levels. Chuo Trust and Banking showed the largest pre-tax surge, of 71.4 per cent, although Mitsubishi Trust and Banking—number one in asset terms—had the best net rise at 27.7 per cent.

Combined revenues of the seven emerged at ¥3,413.5bn (\$13.7bn), up 35.4 per cent. Loan trust income rose 23 per cent, while pre-tax profits from international operations soared 41.6 per cent to ¥99bn. The overseas advance reflected the expansion of business out-

| JAPANESE TRUST BANKS Parent company results (¥bn), year to March 1985 | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Gross revenue | Pre-tax profits | Net profits |
| Mitsubishi | 783.07 | 47.20 | 18.78 |
| | (+30.5%) | (+54.5%) | (+27.7%) |
| Sanitomo | 570.56 | 50.71 | 19.94 |
| | (+37.7%) | (+39.4%) | (+23.5%) |
| Mitsui | 674.25 | 32.23 | 14.97 |
| | (+28.7%) | (+22.5%) | (+22.5%) |
| Yamada | 610.46 | 28.40 | 10.35 |
| | (+51.7%) | (+43.3%) | (+31.1%) |
| Toyo | 353.80 | 24.84 | 9.86 |
| | (+31.2%) | (+42.8%) | (+22.0%) |
| Chuo | 214.97 | 18.27 | 7.97 |
| | (+43.1%) | (+71.4%) | (+19.2%) |
| Nippon | 107.72 | 3.44 | 1.53 |
| | (+23.4%) | (+27.9%) | (+4.7%) |
| Total | 3,413.48 | 200.85 | 77.37 |
| | (+35.4%) | (+49.1%) | (+23.6%) |

side Japan, as well as the effects of the yen's depreciation on dollar-denominated transactions. For example, Mitsubishi Trust Bank's net assets increased by ¥2,400bn, of which foreign currency assets accounted for ¥1,700bn. For the current year all seven

expect to maintain the upward trend. Additional overseas out-lets are being planned.

Japan's corporate pension fund assets, estimated at ¥34,000bn are expected to quadruple in the next ten years, reflecting an ageing population profile.

Toshiba group earnings soar 46%

By Yoko Shibata in Tokyo

NET PROFITS of Toshiba and its group companies soared 46 per cent to a record ¥84.1bn (\$648m) in the year to March, an increase ahead of 23.5 per cent to ¥3,342bn.

All but one of Toshiba's subsidiaries and equity-accounted affiliates provided favourable contributions to earnings and margins, as well as Toshiba America were singled out yesterday by Mr. Yuichi Yamada, executive vice-chairman, as having done particularly well. Strong shipments of thermal and hydraulic power plant, and nuclear power generation systems, lifted sales in the heavy electrical apparatus division 33 per cent to contribute 22 per cent of total turnover.

Significant growth was seen in the electronics field, including semiconductor and office automation equipment, with sales in that sector up 27 per cent to account for 34 per cent of the total.

Consumer product sales, supported by strong demand for seasonal products such as air conditioners, moved ahead by 14 per cent to account for 37 per cent of turnover. Exports to China more than quadrupled from ¥13bn to ¥55bn, centring on colour television sets. This together with buoyant exports to the U.S. lifted Toshiba's overseas sales 42 per cent, representing 31 per cent of turnover.

The cost efficiencies derived from increased volume production, minority interest in income of consolidated subsidiaries (up 17 per cent) and equity income of affiliated companies (up 21 per cent) provided an earnings upsurge.

Overall, earnings per share rose from ¥22.46 to ¥26.63. At the pre-tax level, profits were ¥185,749bn against ¥136.11bn. For the current year, Toshiba is continuing to make substantial investments in plant and equipment with total capital investment amounting to ¥270bn, against last year's ¥250bn, half of which will be used on the semiconductor side. The company invested ¥150bn on semiconductor production last year.

Research and development spending, centring on semiconductor, is due for the current year to reach 5.4 per cent of total turnover, 0.3 point higher at ¥200bn.

Toshiba's consolidated turnover is expected to reach ¥2,720bn, ahead by 11.6 per cent. Net profits are projected at ¥83bn, up a more modest 8 per cent from the previous year.

1984: A YEAR OF PROGRESS AT UNITED MIZRAHI BANK

THE MAIN POINTS OF THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AND THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR 1984 (ADJUSTED FOR THE EFFECT OF INFLATION ON THE BASIS TO THE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1984)

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| | 31.12.84 IN MILLION \$ |
|---|---------------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | 4,780 |
| DEPOSITS FROM THE PUBLIC AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS | 4,063 |
| SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | 178 |
| CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS | 1,055 |
| LOANS | 3,183 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 214 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

| | 31.12.84 IN THOUSANDS \$ |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| NET PROFIT (LOSS) | 5,051 |

** RECLASSIFIED AND READJUSTED

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK AND ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK (SWITZERLAND) LTD.

| | 1984 | 1983 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| IN MILLION IN MILLION | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 88.0 | 67.5 |
| NET PROFIT | 1.21 | 0.85 |

UMB BANK AND TRUST COMPANY NEW YORK

| | 1984 | 1983 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| IN MILLION IN MILLION | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 5 | 5 |
| CAPITAL, RESERVES AND SURPLUSES | 38 | 25 |
| NET PROFIT | 3.4 | 2.8 |

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK LTD. LONDON BRANCH (A Licensed Deposit Taking Institution)

| | 1984 | 1983 |
|-----------------------|-------|------|
| IN MILLION IN MILLION | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 138.0 | 70.5 |
| NET PROFIT | 0.3 | - |

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK LTD. Head Office: 13 Rothschild Blvd. Tel Aviv 6121, Tel. (03) 629211, 85 Branches throughout Israel. UMB BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, Head Office: Rockefeller Center, 680 Fifth Avenue, 27th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10111, U.S.A. Tel. (212) 841-8070, Telex: 666557 UMB LW. UNITED MIZRAHI BANK (SWITZERLAND) LTD. 1, Leventinestrasse, P.O.B. 31, CH-8001 Zurich, Switzerland, Tel. (01) 211-9628, Telex: 812837 UMB CH. UNITED MIZRAHI FINANCIAL CORPORATION LTD. Licensed Dealer in Securities, 105 Cannon Street, London EC3N 3AD, England, Tel. (01) 623-1230, Telex: 956654 UMB G.

Wells Fargo & Company

U.S. \$150,000,000

Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 1994

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, interest is payable on the Notes at the rate of 7% per annum, 6th September, 1985. The Notes will carry an interest rate of 7% per annum. Interest payable on the relevant interest payment date 6th September, 1985 will amount to US\$198.06 per US\$100,000 Note.

Agent Bank: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, London.

NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS

F.L. SMYTH & CO. AS U.S. \$200,000,000 9% PER CENT BONDS DUE 1988. Bondholders are hereby informed that the July 1, 1985 Redemption Indenture of U.S. \$1,500,000 has been fully satisfied through purchases in the open market, leaving a balance remaining in circulation of U.S. \$1,500,000.00. THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, N.A. Principal Paying Agent June, 1985.

INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

PKBanken warns of fall in year's operating profit

BY DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

PKBanken, the state owned commercial bank which ranks among Sweden's three largest lending institutions, achieved a 5 per cent rise in operating results for the first four months ending April, to SKr 488m (\$48m).

The bank warns, though, that the recent tightening of monetary and credit policy by the Swedish central bank, unless eased, could result in sharply lower earnings for the full year. The estimated SKr 300m cost of the Riksbank move will only be partially compensated by higher interest rates.

PKBanken holds a higher proportion of public-sector bond commitments in its portfolio. The recent increase in the official discount rate by two points and the penalty rate by 2.5 points cannot be entirely offset by higher volumes or increased

interest rates, the bank warns.

Officials privately express the hope that the bank will at least be able to near the SKr 1,000m operating result achieved in 1984. Total assets increased by SKr 4,500m, or 4 per cent, and lending by SKr 4,200m, or 10 per cent. Deposits fell by 2 per cent, or SKr 2,200m.

Operating profits at the parent bank rose by 3 per cent to SKr 371m. Operating profit at PKBanken International (Luxembourg) climbed 60 per cent, to SKr 28m. Commission and other operating income continues to grow strongly.

Posner forced to take cut in salary

By William Hall in New York

MR VICTOR POSNER, the Miami financier, has been forced to take a substantial salary cut and make substantial concessions to win the support of angry debenture holders who were threatening to push Sharon Steel, one of the key companies in his financially troubled empire, into bankruptcy.

Seldman Capital Corporation, which controls about one third of Sharon's debentures, has agreed to swap its 13% per cent and 14% per cent Sharon debentures for a package of low-interest and zero-coupon notes and common shares.

The special steels company, which has been losing money since 1981, has agreed to give debenture holders more equity in Sharon and increase their holdings' value by 10 per cent. Sharon will put two debenture holders on its board and has agreed not to buy any more securities and to cut "dramatically" the salaries paid to its chairman, Mr Victor Posner, and his son Steven, who is vice-chairman.

Sharon needs to win the support of its debenture holders if it is to reduce its interest charges and stave off bankruptcy. However, Seldman Capital had laid down a number of stringent conditions which it wanted met before it agreed to back the deal. These included cutting Mr Posner's salary from \$3.5m in 1984 to less than \$1m.

President quits at Mostek

By Our Financial Staff

MR HAROLD ERGOTT, president and chief executive of United Technologies' Mostek semiconductor unit, has resigned and been replaced by Mr Richard Gamble, a senior vice-president of UT's controls group.

Mr Ergott had held the posts since 1982. He will be temporarily replaced by Mr Richard Gamble, a senior vice-president of UT's controls group.

In common with other semiconductor manufacturers, Mostek has been hit by the current industry downturn. Last month it announced job cuts of 1,000 in Dallas and 140 in Ireland. In April it reduced its Malaysia workforce by 1,000.

| Year | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 467.5m | 309.5m | 277.5m |
| Op. net profit | 65.5m | 27.5m | 27.5m |
| Net per share | 0.73 | 0.21 | 0.21 |

| Year | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 914.0m | 940.0m | 940.0m |
| Op. net profit | 15.0m | 15.0m | 15.0m |
| Net per share | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 |

| Year | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 357.5m | 357.5m | 357.5m |
| Op. net profit | 45.5m | 45.5m | 45.5m |
| Net per share | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 |

| Year | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | 436.2m | 446.2m | 446.2m |
| Op. net profit | 28.5m | 28.5m | 28.5m |
| Net per share | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 |

Olympia outlines funding plan for Gulf Canada acquisition

BY BERNARD SIMON IN TORONTO

OLYMPIA and York, the Canadian property developer, has proposed selling its 83 per cent interest in Abitibi-Price, the forest products group, to Gulf Canada as part of the plan to acquire control of Gulf from Chevron of San Francisco.

Olympia said in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that it is considering a reorganisation of Gulf Canada that may include a merger between Gulf and Abitibi, and the disposal of some, or all, of Gulf's downstream activities in fuel refining, transport and marketing to third parties.

In one of the largest corporate takeovers in Canada, Olympia announced two weeks ago that it planned to buy 49 per cent of Gulf Canada from Chevron, with an option on Chevron's remaining 11 per cent holding. Gulf, which is Canada's fourth largest integrated oil company, with assets of around C\$7.5bn (U.S.\$3.7bn), is to pay about C\$350m.

Olympia said that between 40 and 50 per cent of the finance for the purchase will come from working capital and "internal resources". The remainder will be raised in bank loans. Olympia is a private

company controlled by the Reichman family, and little is known of its financial position.

The proposal to transfer control of Abitibi to Gulf appears to be based on a strategy of using Gulf's considerable financial strength to help Olympia fund the acquisition of the oil company. Gulf has a strong balance sheet, including a cash surplus of some C\$700m.

Furthermore, the disposal of downstream operations would have the advantage of helping Gulf to finance the Abitibi deal without seriously denting its own profits.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

The list shows the 200 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. The following are closing prices for June 5.

| U.S. DOLLAR | Issued | Mat. | Other | Change on | Yield |
|----------------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| STRAIGHTS | | | | | |
| Ameri Credit 10% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 100 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Ameri Credit 12% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 100 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Bank of Tokyo 13% 91 | 100 | 112 1/2 | 112 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +2 1/2 |
| BP Capital 11% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Can Nat Ind 12% 91 | 100 | 114 1/2 | 114 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +2 1/2 |
| Canada 11% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 12% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 13% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 14% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 15% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 16% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 17% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 18% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 19% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 20% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 21% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 22% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 23% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 24% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 25% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 26% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 27% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 28% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 29% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 30% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 31% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 32% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 33% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 34% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 35% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 36% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 37% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 38% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 39% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 40% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 41% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 42% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 43% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 44% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 45% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 46% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 47% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 48% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 49% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 50% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 51% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 52% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 53% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 54% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 55% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 56% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 57% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 58% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 59% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 60% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 61% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 62% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 63% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 64% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 65% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 66% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 67% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 68% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 69% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 70% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 71% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 72% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 73% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 74% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 75% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 76% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 77% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 78% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 79% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 80% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 81% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 82% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 83% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 84% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 85% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 86% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 87% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2 |
| Canada 88% 90 | 100 | 102 1/2 | 102 1/2 | +0 1/4 | +1 1/2</ |

UK COMPANY NEWS

Reed on target at £108m thanks to U.S. strength

OPERATIONS in the U.S. were doubly important to Reed International's performance in the 1984/85 year. Not only did improved overseas results, especially in U.S. publishing, offset a domestic profit downturn, but the group also made a gain of 27m on the strength of the dollar.

The exchange rate bonus was part of an overall £18m improvement in profits outside the UK, which helped Reed to meet market expectations with pre-tax profits ahead by nearly 12 per cent at £107.5m. The comparable figure was £96.4m.

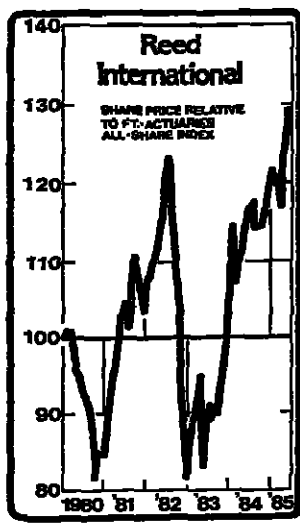
Sir Alex Jarrett, the chairman, who is to step down in favour of Mr Leslie Carpenter next August, said that UK markets were generally highly competitive, and pointed to difficult domestic trading conditions in the consumer publishing, building products, packaging and paper divisions.

In contrast, overseas operations supplied 47 per cent of total profits — a rise of more than 10 per cent — on sales ahead by 31 per cent at £748.1m. Non-UK operating profits came to £60.3m. The chairman singles out the expanding Cahners U.S. publishing business as particularly successful.

Group turnover totalled £2.12bn, up from £2.04bn, but the contribution from the UK was down by 10 per cent at £1.47bn to £1.37bn. In the course of the year Reed sold its investments in Mirror Group Newspapers, London and Provincial Posters and Spicer McGowan with a net surplus on divestment of £33m, and most of the remaining printing businesses were sold or closed at a net loss of £6m. These items show as an extraordinary gain of £15m in the accounts, after a net provision of £22m for possible further rationalisation in the UK paper and board activities.

The dividend for the year is raised by 12 per cent with a final 12.75p (11.5p) on top of the interim 5.75p (5p). Earnings per share are shown at £3.6p, down from 57.7p. The higher dividend will cost £22m.

Interest charges were up from £19m to £21m. A rise in the effective rate of overseas tax—mainly due to the exhaustion of



most brought forward losses in the U.S.—was the chief reason for a substantial rise in the 1984-85 tax bill, up from £27.7m to £43.3m. Attributable profits came out at £78.7m against £58.2m.

In his review of operating groups, the chairman said that Reed Publishing continued to make vigorous progress and increased trading profit by 42 per cent to £57m. The group generated 45 per cent of trading profit from 21 per cent of balance sheet capital employed. With significant new investment, the rapidly expanding Cahners business in the U.S. was particularly successful. UK regional newspapers continued to develop and substantial investment was made in electronic data based publishing.

In Consumer Publishing, the fall in profit from £16m to £11.4m was largely attributable to lost issues as a result of a journalists' strike and sharply increased paper costs. The European Couriers Magazines Group was acquired.

The Building Products division suffered from the imposition of VAT on home improvements. This impaired the already depressed UK market for building materials and turnover was maintained but at much reduced margins. Key Tervin suffered

particularly from severe price cutting by competitors. Profits from the UK businesses in the second half of the year were significantly reduced. In Holland, Spilner benefited from previous investment and rationalisation and produced much improved results.

Paint and DIY profits were higher in all main areas both in the UK and overseas. Frases Industries (paints) and W. F. Taylor (adhesives) were acquired in the U.S. for £24m and contributed £3m to trading profit.

UK demand in the Packaging division was generally static and Medway Sacks, a major supplier to the coal industry, was badly hit by the miners' strike. Reed Corrugated Cases experienced sharp rises in raw material costs related to the strength of the dollar. Despite this, improved efficiency following rationalisation resulted in increased profits in the UK. Higher demand and greater efficiency increased profits in Holland. The group continues to develop plastic packaging in addition to traditional paper products.

Spicers office products, part of Reed Trading, continued to grow with improved profits. Maybank benefited from a very strong market for waste paper. Reed Carbonless Papers, with a good production performance, returned to profit. Spicer Cowan significantly improved its profit prior to its sale last February.

In the first three quarters, UK mills lost £2m but returned to profit in the last quarter. Contributory factors to the turn round were a fall in excessively high pulp prices; reduced energy costs resulting from investment in converting boilers from oil-burning to gas; and the planned closure of six paper and board machines. The mill in Holland with record sales achieved satisfactory profit.

In North American Paper, the Quebec mill maintained full capacity working and continued the investment programme of machine upgrading. Profit improved as a result of higher U.S. newspaper prices but margins in offshore markets were poor. Chemical operations maintained profits but flexible packaging suffered a setback.

Bunzl backs bid with £40m profit forecast

By Alexander Nicoll

Bunzl, the paper group, yesterday forecast a 44 per cent rise in 1985 profits to over £40m and a 33 per cent dividend increase as it put the case for its £119m bid for Brammer, the bearings distribution group.

Its formal offer document had a dual purpose: to persuade Brammer shareholders to accept its offer and to dissuade them from approving Brammer's planned £44m acquisition of Energy Services & Electronics, an electronic equipment rental group. If Brammer shareholders approve the ESE bid at a meeting on June 14, Bunzl's bid will lapse.

In support of its own bid, Bunzl estimated that pre-tax profits would rise from £27.7m in 1984 to over £40m this year, and that total dividend will be increased from 7.5p to 10p.

Acceptance of Bunzl's share bid would give Brammer shareholders a 30 per cent increase in capital value and a 50 per cent income boost, Bunzl said.

Bunzl argued that it and Brammer had a strong fit, both distributing products to demanding customers, and that its record in development of distribution business would enhance Brammer's performance.

Mr James White, Bunzl managing director, said the compatibility of the two companies and their relative philosophies were discussed at a meeting with Mr John Head, Brammer chairman, and Mr Robbie Ffolkes-Jones, joint managing director, on April 25—before the two bids were launched and after Bunzl had sold a 4.6 per cent stake in Brammer.

"I got the message that they wanted to continue the dialogue," Mr White said. "While they claim that it was a social event, there's no way that construction could be put upon it."

Mr Ffolkes-Jones retorted yesterday that "they called it a meeting, we call it a dinner. We do discuss how we do business, and we talked about how we didn't fit, how we didn't need them."

Among Bunzl's other arguments in support of its bid were that Brammer has successfully diversified away from bearings distribution, failing to become a significant presence in new fields; Bunzl could help it to develop in the U.S. and in the UK electronic components fields; and Bunzl's earnings and dividend growth have outperformed Brammer's over the past five years.

Mr Ffolkes-Jones responded that Brammer has halved its dependence on bearings over the past five years, and that its moves into other areas have produced increases in earnings. "We are in the quality end of the service business," Mr White believes that the thing to do is to go for volume. We disagree."

Arguing against Brammer's bid for ESE, Bunzl said the acquisition would dilute Brammer's earnings per share by 15 per cent and reduce net tangible assets per share by nearly 30 per cent. ESE would strengthen Brammer's management resources and its main business, equipment rental, had nothing to do with distribution.

Bunzl said that the earnings per share calculation included the loss-making Neve Audio, for which ESE has had a number of approaches.

Brammer put its case for the ESE acquisition at its annual general meeting. Mr Ffolkes-Jones said later that "if we can convert 10 per cent of our customers to ESE's rental business, we can double ESE's customer base." Bunzl's share price yesterday rose 5p to 410p, raising its share offer for Brammer at 400p. The cash alternative is 370p. Brammer shares fell 5p to 382p.

Eric Short on Abbey Life's stock market debut Born out of a novel concept

Abbey Life Group, Britain's second largest linked-life concern, is the first life company in nine years to come to the market.

However, it has been very much in the limelight ever since it was founded in 1961 by Mr Mark Weinberg, now chairman and chief executive of Hambro Life Assurance, Britain's largest linked life group and now a member of BAT Industries.

Mr Weinberg staked everything in the future of Abbey Life by marketing the then novel concept of linked-life assurance, with emphasis on single premium bonds linked to equity-based funds.

In 1961 this type of life assurance was just off the drawing board and predicted by the establishment never to get acceptance in the face of traditional life products.

It was also held by the establishment in the 1960s that it would take at least 20 years for a life company to stand on its own feet financially, such was the financial strain of putting new business on the books.

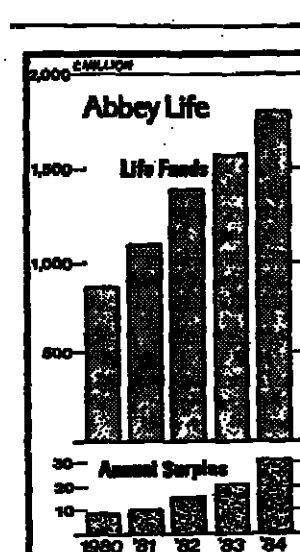
These pundits were proved wrong by Mr Weinberg who saw that linked life assurance, with its emphasis on savings rather than protection, was what the public wanted and that by concentrating on single premium bonds the necessary funds could be expanded rapidly without much financial strain.

Growth in the first few years of Abbey Life was spectacular as the investment public and insurance salesmen took to the unit-linked concept.

However, there were problems during the late 1960s and early 1970s arising from the acquisition of a 10 per cent stake in Abbey Life which resulted in Mr Weinberg leaving to form Hambro Life — taking many vital personnel from Abbey Life with him.

It took Abbey Life several years to recover from this blow. In particular, its administration services — vital for the success of the unit-linked business — were badly affected. For some years Abbey Life languished in the shadow of Hambro Life.

But under the guidance of its chairman and chief executive Mr Michael Hefher, Abbey Life has shown that it has fully



Mr Michael Hefher, chairman and chief executive of Abbey Life Group

recovered from the post-Weinberg effects and has shown very impressive growth in its operations.

The prospectus shows that total new premiums over the past five years have risen from £94.5m in 1980 to £223.9m in 1984, with premium income rising over that period from £167.2m to £376.1m.

Total life funds went from £863m to £1.8bn — second only to Hambro Life among the linked life companies. Above all, its annual surplus has risen from £8.4m to £30.7m in 1984, with a forecast of £33m in 1985.

At yesterday's launch of the offer Mr Hefher pointed out that the group had three major features in its favour at the present time.

The first is the potential of

life assurance marketing in the UK over the next few years, especially in the field of pensions. Abbey Life has, for the past 10 years, directed its main marketing thrust through its direct sales force, who though technically self-employed, are tied to Abbey Life. This sales force now numbers 2,500 and is expanding rapidly.

Second, the group has a wide range of life and pension products tailored to meet the current needs of the public. This is reflected in 1984's new business figures which Mr Hefher claims puts Abbey Life in the top five life companies in the UK, and were only exceeded by the new business figures of the two well established companies, Prudential Assurance and Legal and General.

Over the years Hambro sold tranches of its equity holding in Hambro Life, finally selling its remaining 24 per cent to Charterhouse J. Rothschild and leaving Hambro Life a minority shareholder. Hambro Life was forced into the BAT fold to avoid the wolves outside.

ITT has guaranteed not to sell any more shares of Abbey Life for the next 12 months. However, if it still has cash problems after that period the temptation to sell some more will be strong. Mr Hefher refused to speculate on such a scenario, but it must always be in the background.

Other life companies, such as Crown Life and Target Life, have announced their intention of going public in a couple of years' time. But as yet, they are nowhere near the size of Abbey Life.

OFFER TERMS VALUE ABBEY AT £504m

MERCHANT BANKER S. G. Warburg is bringing Abbey Life Group, to the market, via an offer for sale of 135m ordinary shares of 10p each at a price of 180p per share.

This represents 48.5 per cent of the total issued capital of Abbey Life and values the group at £504m. The remaining 51.5 per cent is being retained by the U.S. conglomerate ITT Corporation, the present owner of the Abbey Life.

The prospectus, issued yesterday, forecasts an actuarial surplus for 1985 of approximately £23m and a dividend payment of 6.0p net for the year.

This gives a prospective p/e on the offer price of 15.3 and a prospective dividend yield of 6.24 per cent.

The offer for sale provides ITT Corporation with an opportunity to realise part of its investment in Abbey Life Group as announced earlier this year as part of a US\$1.7bn fund raising exercise. ITT said that it did not intend to sell any more of its shareholding in Abbey Life for at least 12 months.

Applications lists will open next Wednesday. Acceptance letters will be posted on Tuesday June 18 and dealings in the ordinary shares will begin the following day. Preferential consideration is being given to employees and sales associates of Abbey Life and its subsidiaries.

Geers Gross warns of profit drop

By Martin Dickson

Geers Gross, the UK advertising agent, said yesterday its 1985 profits were likely to be substantially below last year's, but also announced an agreement allowing Eurocom, a French advertising holding company, to increase its stake in the group.

Geers's shares rose on the news to close last night at 87p, up 10p on the day.

Eurocom bought a 10 per cent stake in Geers last February at 170p a share under an agreement which allowed it to increase this to a maximum of 20 per cent at the end of 1986.

At Eurocom's request, the Geers has now allowed the immediate purchase of more shares, though the 20 per cent maximum remains.

Mr Charles Hoare, Geers' chairman, said last week that the group's U.S. subsidiary had lost a highly profitable account with a sports cable network, ESPN, which had been acquired by a company with an in-house agency.

The U.S. subsidiary had netted £1m last year, but "looking at 1985 yesterday, 10p short of maximum value of the offer and valuing the company at £4.9m.

Exeter Building

Exeter Building & Construction Group, the UK quoted company for which Mr Michael Kent has made a 29.9 per cent tender offer, yesterday urged shareholders to take no action while its directors considered the offer with their financial advisers.

Exeter's shares were unchanged at 120p yesterday, 10p short of maximum value of the offer and valuing the company at £4.9m.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FIDELITY FAR EAST FUND

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
37 rue Notre-Dame, Luxembourg
R. C. Luxembourg B 16926

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of FIDELITY FAR EAST FUND, a société d'investissement à capital variable, organized under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (the "Fund"), will be held at the principal and registered office of the Fund, 37 rue Notre-Dame, Luxembourg, at 11.00 a.m. on June 25, 1985, specifically, but without limitation, for the following purposes:

1. Presentation of the Report of the Board of Directors.
2. Presentation of the Report of the Statutory Auditor.
3. Approval of the Balance Sheet at February 28, 1985 and Income Statement for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1985.
4. Discharge of Board of Directors and the Statutory Auditor.
5. Election of eight (8) Directors, specifically the re-election of all present Directors, Messrs. Edward C. Johnson 3d, William L. Byrnes, Charles A. Fraser, Hideo Kurokawa, John M. S. Patton, Harry G. A. Soggegan, James E. Tomer and Finlinter.

6. Election of the Statutory Auditor, specifically the re-election of the present Statutory Auditor, Maurice J. Sargent.
7. Declaration of a cash dividend to the Shareholders, and authorization of the Board of Directors to declare further dividends in respect of fiscal year 1985 if necessary to enable the Fund to qualify for "distributor" status under United Kingdom tax law.
8. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Approval of the above items on the Agenda will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present or represented at the Meeting, with no minimum number of shares required to be present or represented at the Meeting in order to establish a quorum. Subject to the limitations imposed by law and the Articles of Organization of the Fund, each share is entitled to one vote. A shareholder may act at any meeting by proxy.

Dated: May 24, 1985

By order of the Board of Directors

FIDELITY FAR EAST FUND is an Investment Company with the objective of seeking long term capital growth from a diversified portfolio of predominantly Japanese companies. Investment will also be made in companies located elsewhere in the Pacific Basin. At May 15, 1985 the Fund's assets were invested in Japan 63%, Hong Kong 6%, Australia 3%, Thailand 1.5% and cash and miscellaneous 6.5%. The Fund was launched in November 1979 at \$20 (valued for stock split on July 29, 1984). Since launch the offer price of shares has risen by 111% to \$21.15. The Fund is now valued at \$123.8.

Copies of the Offering Circular and latest Quarterly Report can be obtained from Fidelity International at:

P.O. Box 670, Pembroke Hall,
East Broadway, Pembroke,
Hamilton, Bermuda
Tel: (809) 295 0665
Telex: 0280 3318

9 Bond Street,
St. Helier,
Jersey, C.I.
Tel: (0334) 74996
Telex: 4192260

Interims up 35% following 8 consecutive years of increased profit.



Results for the half year to 31 March:-

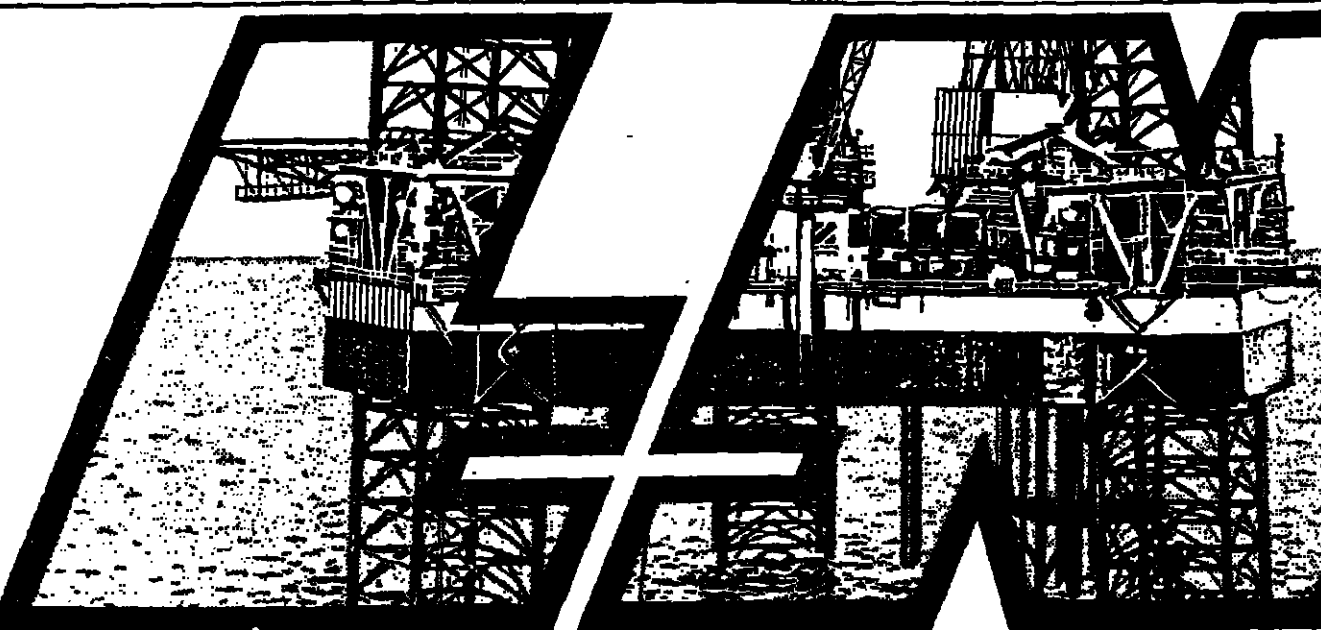
| | 1985 | 1984 | Increase |
|--------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| | £m | £m | % |
| Sales | 75.7 | 57.4 | 32 |
| Profits before tax | 5.1 | 3.8 | 35 |
| Earnings per share | 8.08p | 6.56p | 23 |

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:-

- * The benefits of our heavy capital expenditure are now paying off.
- * Our North American investments have had a particularly good half year.
- * We are well pleased by the progress of our recent acquisitions.
- * The Group is growing fast and profitably.

A copy of the full interim statement and last year's annual report can be obtained from the Company Secretary, McCORQUODALE PLC, McCORQUODALE House, Telford Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2YA. Telephone (0256) 465311.

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GROUP PLC

LONDON AND NORTHERN
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Debenhams has abdicated its retailing roll-Burton

By MARTIN DICKSON

Burton yesterday filed a major takeover bid for Debenhams. It coupled the offer with a 25 per cent increase in its dividend with an attack on the group's retailing record and said it had a formula to "revitalise" large surplus area shopping in the High Street.

The commitments were made in the formal offer document to Debenhams shareholders, which also said Burton expected to report satisfactory results for the year to August. It forecast a final dividend of 8p a share (4.5p), making a total of 8.5p for the year, up 30 per cent on 1984-85.

Last night Debenhams chairman, Mr Robert Thornton, said the document did not take anything further and dismissed the offer as derisory. Burton, whose bid is being made in association with Habitat-Mothereux, contrasted what it called its own outstanding financial performance over the past five years with Debenhams' unsatisfactory record.

It claimed Debenhams record was poor because its management had "progressively abdicated their role as retailers, becoming instead landlords and credit card operators dependent on the retailing skills of others." It growing proportion of Debenhams trading space, it said, had been used to create a new retail concept in Debenhams stores, the "Galleria," a complete selection of clearly defined ranges of goods and services under one roof. It would bring together some of the existing trading divisions of Burton and Habitat-Mothereux and, equally important, the completely new formats for the over-30s clothing market which Burton was developing.

It noted that while two thirds of Burton's customers were under 30, most of Debenhams were over 30 and the stores were "widely recognised as prime candidates for a change to a new and more exciting retailing style, primarily serving this age group." On Debenhams existing trading arrangements with Harris Queensway, the furniture group, the document merely said that Burton had "considerable admiration for Harris Queensway's retailing abilities and looked forward to developing the trading arrangements in a mutually beneficial way."

The cover of the document, an artistic display unusual in bid literature, features a sketch of the exterior of a "Debenhams Galleria." Burton is offering three of its shares and £2.50 in cash for every five of Debenhams. On



Mr Ralph Halpern, chairman of Burton

the basis of last night's Burton closing price of 485p, up 3p on the day, the offer is worth 338p a Debenhams share. There is a 21p cash alternative.

Debenhams share price closed last night at 403p, up 3p on the day, a fact emphasised by Mr Thornton when he attacked the bid for offering shareholders "a reduction in both capital and income."

He noted the absence of a profits forecast in the Burton document and suggested that the group's Principles, which launched last year for the over-30s market, had "fallen flat on its face."

Debenhams' annual report, published yesterday, shows that Mr Thornton's remuneration rose last year from £96,886 to £100,082—a rise of 3.3 per cent. It also includes a performance-related bonus. Mr Thornton said last night that he was confident of Debenhams at least maintaining its dividend despite a proposed one-for-five bonus issue of shares, which would represent a real increase of 20 per cent.

Burton's document also details its offer to preference shareholders. These are 100p in cash for A preference stock and 50p in cash for each B preference share.

Common suspended for refinancing

By CHARLES BATCHELOR

THE shares of Common Brothers, the loss-making Newcastle-upon-Tyne shipping group, were suspended yesterday to allow the company to agree a refinancing package with its bankers.

Common is capitalised at just £1.82m on the basis of the 32p suspension price. This compares with a price of 112p last November before it announced that a £17m write-off on a drilling ship, 1201m in the year ended June 1984 compared with a previous profit of £5.2m.

The company said it had put a plan, drawn up by its merchant bank, Hill Samuel, to its four main bankers to rearrange certain loan facilities, dispose of some of its assets and convert a significant portion of its loan and charter obligations into share capital.

Mr Kristian Siem, chief executive, said: "The mood of our bankers is positive but we are not quite there. The shipping world is difficult but we have not lost sight of our core business. Any disposals will be orderly and over a period of time."

Common said that its bankers were continuing to provide it with interim facilities while the discussions take place. The company had not intended to make any announcement until it had completed negotiations with its bankers but it had decided to request a suspension when its share price fell. Dealings were marked on Tuesday at

43p, 11p higher than the suspension price. Common's cruise activities, its livestock carrier and two LPG vessels have been profitable but the product tankers have lost money and the bulk carrier has been barely breaking even.

Common is 53 per cent owned by Norex Corporation, a Bermuda-based company which is controlled by trusts of Mr Siem. The Common family own about 10 per cent.

News of Common's problems came less than a week after Reardon Smith Line, a Cardiff shipping company announced it would go into liquidation because of mounting losses.

British Empire
Subscriptions have been received for 82.5m new ordinary 10p shares in British Empire Securities and General Trust, representing 77.4 per cent of the rights issue.

The Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada subscribed for 14.24m shares, and now holds 20 per cent of the enlarged capital. The balance, of 18.26m shares, was sold in the market at an average bid price, after deduction of the 5p subscription price and sales expenses of 0.0625p per share.

Henderson Administration profit expands by 43% to £12.48m

A RISE of 43 per cent in pre-tax profits, from £8.73m to £12.48m, is reported by the financial and investment management company Henderson Administration for the year ended March 31 1985.

The group's revenue showed a near 30 per cent rise from £15.9m to £20.14m, while its operating profit on its main activities climbed more than 50 per cent to £8.58m (£5.72m).

The net profit on the ordinary activities of the group rose by 45 per cent from £4.79m to £6.98m. After extraordinary credits of some £2.1m and a transfer out to initial charges equalisation reserve are taken into account the net attributable profit more than doubled from £3.95m to £8.31m.

Earnings per share were 67.33p before the transfer, and 61.74p after the transfer. The dividend payment for the year is increased by 60 per cent to 16p (10p) with a final payment of 12p. The overall gain to the group of its disposal of its holding in Henderson Baring Management was £3.95m gross—£4.17m after tax—of which £2.10m was treated as an extraordinary item and the £2m balance being the group's share of undistributed reserves.

from management fees on pension fund and private client investment rose faster. Total funds under management increased nearly 50 per cent during the year from £1.73bn to £2.59bn, with the out-

standing growth coming from its pension fund operations. Here, direct portfolios more than doubled from £410m to £872m and together with other tax exempt clients accounted for the largest single category of funds under management.

Its unit trusts operations also did well, rising to £988m at the end of the year. Henderson's share of the unit trust market rose to 6 per cent.

The performance of its major investment trusts managed by the group was in the top 25 per cent on performance measurement surveys.

Private clients business recorded a 92 per cent rise in funds to £17m.

Comment
Henderson's results were well above market expectations, with all sectors doing well under what has been very favourable conditions for investment management companies. Its main unit trust activities fully participated in the recent boom, with the group increasing its market share. Its moves to expand marketing outlets are now starting to bear fruit and the comfortable margins will ensure that these operations will remain the chief profit earner for the group. The major success story is the group's expansion in the area of pension fund investment

management—a field it entered just eight years ago. Employers are becoming far more critical of the performance of their pension funds and Henderson's record—it is in the top quartile of the NW Computing Services survey—has enabled it to attract new business, as has its independence from any other financial institution. Margins, however, are much slimmer on pension fund management compared to unit trust operations and the group has to work hard to produce profit increases. Nevertheless, growth should continue in the current year as equity markets remain strong. The market reacted sharply to the results lifting the share price 90p to 825p, giving a p/e of 12.2—which still does not fully reflect the group's potential.

Heywood
Heywood Williams Group owns or controls some 92.6 per cent of the Planet Group according to accounts received by June 4.

By 3.30 pm on that date acceptances for the Heywood offer had been received from the holders of 91.1 per cent of the Planet share capital. The offer has become wholly unconditional and is being extended until further notice.

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Rayford Supreme shares jump 75p on bid talks

By ALEXANDER NICOLL

The share price of Rayford Supreme Holdings, USM-quoted retailer of electrical goods, jumped 75p yesterday to 205p, valuing it at £17m, after the company disclosed that it is in discussions which may lead to an offer.

Any bid for the company would need the backing of its founder and chairman, Mr Raymond Horsey, who holds 72 per cent of the equity. That Mr Horsey could be in talks for a potential bidder surprised the City. The company went public in 1983 and has since spent heavily on a rapid expansion to create a chain of retailing 500 branches, all in southern England.

Having built a network based on two depots at Shoreham and Swindon, Rayford could start to expand further at relatively little additional cost, analysts said. Rayford does, however, have an erratic profit record, rising from £251,000 in the year before flotation to £1.8m pre-tax in the year ended September 30, 1983, then dropping to £1.2m in the last financial year. Profits are expected to rise nearer the 1983 total this year.

Following takeovers of Comet and Cury's last year, Rayford is the only pure retailer of electrical goods apart from Dixons to have a stock market quote. An obvious candidate to bid for Rayford would be Harris Queensway, which made an

unsuccessful attempt to buy Comet last year. Whether or not Harris is interested, the potential bidder is thought likely to come from outside the electrical retailing business.

Simon Engineering, a privately-owned company based in Norfolk. The initial consideration for the purchase, amounting to £1.5m, will be raised by the issue of 618,889 new ordinary shares of 25p each, of which 433,787 will be placed through Rowe & Pitman, and the balance retained by Simon. In addition a further £1m may be payable, subject to profit performance, in four tranches in the period to March 1988.

Steel Brothers Holdings, involved in construction, foodstuffs and manufacturing, has acquired Air Cuisine, which provides in-flight catering at Luton and Glasgow airports. Air Cuisine's major airline customers are Britannia Airways, Monarch Airlines, British Caledonian, British Midland Airways and Scandinavian Airlines. The acquisition will complement Steel's operations in Canada through Eagle Flight Catering at Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto, and Gatwick flight catering in England. Steel Brothers also acquires Air Cuisine's subsidiary, Winterstar.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|------|------|------|
| Henderson Admin | 12 | July 11 | 7 | 16 | 10 |
| Pedler-Hattersley | 9.25 | Aug 7 | 8.5 | 14.5 | 13.5 |
| Reed Int'l | 12.75 | Aug 13 | 11.5 | 18.5 | 16.5 |
| Rowe Evans | 2.25 | July 12 | 1.35 | 2.25 | 1.35 |
| Sketchley | 1.1 | July 26 | 0.9 | 15.5 | 14 |
| S. Smart | 1.2 | July 15 | 1.1 | — | 3.95 |

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. † Equivalent after allowing for scrip issues. ‡ On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. § USM stock. § Unquoted stock. † Final of 3.15p forecast.

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Public Works Loan Board rates

| Years | Effective June 5 | Quota loans repaid at maturity | Non-quota loans A* repaid at maturity |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 2 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 3 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 4 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 5 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 6 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 7 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 8 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 9 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 10 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 11 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 12 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 13 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 14 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 15 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 16 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 17 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 18 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 19 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |
| 20 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.1 |

* Non-quota loans: B are 1 per cent higher in each case than A. † Equal instalments of principal. ‡ Repayment by instalments (fixed) until half-yearly payments of interest only. § With half-yearly payments of interest only.

Trading Results

Turnover increased by 4% to £211.5m (1984: £204.3m). Excluding major investments, the increase for continuing businesses was 17%.

Pre-tax profit increased by 12% to £107.5m (1984: £96.4m).

Historical trading profit increased by 13% to £127.1m (1984: £112.7m). Current cost trading profit increased by 3% to £68.8m (1984: £66.6m).

The dividend for the year is to be increased by 12% from 16.5p to 18.5p.

| | 1985 | 1984 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| £ million | | |
| Sales | 211.5 | 204.3 |
| Profit | 107.5 | 96.4 |
| Operating Profit | 127.1 | 112.7 |
| Current cost trading profit | 68.8 | 66.6 |

Turnover and trading profits achieved record levels. With generally highly competitive markets, UK profits declined but the fall was more than offset by improved results overseas, notably in publishing in the USA. The weakness of sterling contributed £7m to an £18m improvement in overseas profit. Exceptional costs for rationalisation charged against trading profit were £5m (1984: £10m).

Review of Operating Groups

Reed Publishing. The largest British owned publishing and exhibitions group continued to make vigorous progress and increased trading profit by 42% to £57m. The group generated 45% of Reed International's trading profit from 21% of balance sheet capital employed. With significant new investment, the rapidly expanding Cahners business in the USA has been particularly successful. UK regional newspapers continued to develop and substantial investment was made in electronic data based publishing.

Consumer Publishing. The fall in profit this year was largely attributable to lost issues as a result of a journalists' strike and sharply increased paper costs. The European Country Magazines Group was acquired.

Reed Building Products. The imposition of VAT on home improvements seriously impaired the already depressed UK market for building materials. Turnover was maintained but at much reduced margins. Key Terrain suffered particularly from severe price cutting by competitors. Profits from the UK businesses in the second half of the year were significantly reduced. In Holland, Sphinx benefited from previous investment and rationalisation and produced much improved results.

On 30 May 1985, the Company announced that it is seeking purchasers for the companies within the Building Products Group.

Paint and DIY. Profits were higher in all

| PRELIMINARY CONSOLIDATED PROFIT STATEMENT for the year to 31 March 1985 | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| | 1985 | 1984 |
| Historical Cost | | |
| £ million | | |
| Turnover | | |
| United Kingdom and Exports | 1367.1 | 1474.0 |
| Overseas | 748.1 | 569.0 |
| | 2115.2 | 2043.0 |
| Trading Profit before Exceptional Items | 132.2 | 122.7 |
| Exceptional Items | (5.1) | (10.0) |
| Share of Profits of Related Companies | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| Operating Profit | | |
| United Kingdom | 68.2 | 73.3 |
| Overseas | 60.3 | 42.1 |
| | 128.5 | 115.4 |
| Interest | (21.0) | (19.0) |
| Profit before Taxation | 107.5 | 96.4 |
| Taxation | | |
| United Kingdom | (21.8) | (18.3) |
| Overseas | (21.5) | (9.4) |
| | (43.3) | (27.7) |
| Profit after Taxation | 64.2 | 68.7 |
| Outside Shareholders' Interests | (0.3) | (0.3) |
| Preference Dividends | (0.2) | (0.2) |
| Profit before Extraordinary Item | 63.7 | 68.2 |
| Extraordinary Item | 15.0 | — |
| Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders | 78.7 | 68.2 |
| Ordinary Dividends paid and proposed 1985: 18.5p per share (1984: 16.5p per share) | (22.0) | (19.5) |
| Retained Profit | 56.7 | 48.7 |
| Earnings per Ordinary Share | 53.6p | 57.7p |

The figures for the year are abridged from the Group's full accounts for that period, which have received an unqualified auditors' report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

main areas both in the UK and overseas. Frazee Industries (paints) and W F Taylor (adhesives) were acquired in the USA for £24m and contributed £3m to trading profit.

Packaging. UK demand was generally static and Medway Sacks, a major supplier to the coal industry was badly hit by the miners' strike. Reed Corrugated Cases experienced sharp rises in raw material costs related to the strength of the US dollar. Despite this, improved efficiency following rationalisation resulted in increased profits in the UK. Higher demand and greater efficiency increased profits in Holland. The group continues to develop plastic packaging in addition to traditional paper products.

Reed Trading. Spicers office products business continued to grow with improved profits. Maybank benefited from a very strong market for waste paper. Reed Carbonless Papers with a good production performance returned to profit. Spicer-Cowan significantly improved its profit prior to its sale in February 1985.

European Paper. In the first three quarters, UK mills lost £3m but returned to profit in the last quarter. Contributory factors to the turn round were: a fall in excessively high pulp prices; reduced energy costs resulting from in-

vestment in converting boilers from oil-burning to gas; and the planned closure of six paper and board machines. The mill in Holland with record sales achieved satisfactory profit.

North American Paper. The Quebec mill maintained full capacity working and continued the investment programme of machine upgrading. Profit improved as a result of higher US newspaper prices but margins in off-shore markets were poor. Chemical operations maintained profits but flexible packaging suffered a setback. The Greenville joint venture sawmill continued unprofitable and was sold at a loss of £2m.

Decorative Products. Following extensive rationalisation programmes, the group achieved modest profits. Since the year-end the Company has sold the Crown and Sunworthy wallcoverings businesses and is negotiating to sell Sanderson.

Taxation
The effective rate of taxation increased to 40% of profit before taxation (1984: 29%). The basic rate of Corporation Tax in the UK reduced from 50% to 45% but this was more than offset by the ending of stock relief and reduced capital allowances, which increased the effective rate from 33% to 41%.

The exhaustion of most brought forward losses in the USA increased the effective rate of overseas taxation from 23% to 39%.

Group Restructuring and Extraordinary Items

The Company sold its investments in Mirror Group Newspapers, London and Provincial Posters and Spicer-Cowan with a net surplus on divestment of £53m.

Most of the Group's remaining printing businesses were sold or closed with a net loss of £6m.

At the half-year, following the decision to close loss-making paper machines, the Board announced its intention to make provision for possible further rationalisation in some of the UK paper and board activities. The net provision amounts to £32m. These items are reported as a net extraordinary gain of £15m.

Intangible Assets and Goodwill

A revised accounting policy for intangible assets and goodwill has been adopted. Publishing rights and titles and exhibition rights are stated at fair value on acquisition, and having no finite economic life are not subject to amortisation. Any other excess cost or goodwill is written-off against consolidated reserves. Previously capitalised goodwill of £50m has been written-off to reserves as a prior-year adjustment and the 1984 balance sheet restated.

FINANCE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| £ million | 1985 | 1984 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Funds Invested | | |
| Shareholders' Funds | 649 | 597 |
| Outside Shareholders' Interests | 4 | 4 |
| Loan Capital | 177 | 171 |
| Net Overdraft (cash) | (9) | 18 |
| | 824 | 790 |
| Funds Employed | | |
| Properties and Plant | 448 | 436 |
| Investments | 15 | 17 |
| Intangible Assets | 106 | 63 |
| Working Capital | 255 | 254 |
| Capital Employed | 824 | 790 |

Trading cash flow was £36m (1984: £64m) after capital expenditure of £103m (1984: £81m).

Proceeds from divestments were £146m (1984: £8m) and investment in new acquisitions totalled £70m (1984: £22m). Net indebtedness at the end of the year was £171m (1984: £189m). The Debt/Equity Ratio was 32% (1984: 36%).

Earnings and Dividends

Profit attributable to shareholders before Extraordinary Items was Historical £64m (1984: £68m) and Current Cost £15m (1984: £30m) resulting in Earnings per Share of Historical 53.6p (1984: 57.7p) and Current Cost 12.5p (1984: 25.2p).

The Board has decided to recommend a final dividend of 12.75p per Ordinary Share making, together with the interim dividend of 5.75p already paid, a total of 18.5p for the year (1984: 16.5p), an increase of 12%.

Subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 23 July 1985, the final dividend will be paid on 13 August 1985 to shareholders on the register on 5 July 1985.

UK COMPANY NEWS

33

Pegler set for progress after static trading year

WITH THE total level of demand from its major market much the same as in the previous year, Pegler-Hattersley saw little change in trading profits for 1984-85.

The group's valve and distribution divisions benefited from an upturn in process plant investment in the second six months but activity in the building industry declined and earnings from this area were lower.

However, helped by higher interest income and a sharp reduction in redundancy costs, profits at the pre-tax level emerged £1.09m ahead at £18.11m.

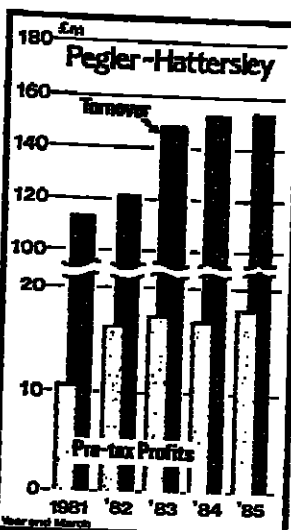
The dividend for the year is being stepped up by 1p to 14.5p net per 25p share by an increased final of 9.25p.

Group chairman Sir Peter Matthews tells shareholders that the current year has begun with better order books and an improved position in the valve and distribution sectors.

He says the recovery in process plant spending which took place during 1984-85 has been seen to extend to other sectors in the current year.

Although building markets remain weak, the group's overall trading performance should improve. However, Sir Peter warns that earnings from related companies will be lower as a result of the present recession in South Africa.

For the past 12 months, to March 30 1985, group turnover edged ahead from £152.63m to £154.41m. Trading profits were virtually static at £10.51m, compared with a previous £10.52m.



accountable for a £1.42m rise in extraordinary profits to £2.51m. After such charges, profits for the year came through at £7.76m, against £8.25m. Earnings improved by 3p to 33.6p per share.

● comment

Pegler-Hattersley has emerged in sound shape from a tough year in the UK building industry. While profits from building products were down, they have not fallen as much as had been feared—the plastic pipe operations slipped into loss in the face of intense price competition in the market, which had also hit other manufacturers. Heworth Ceramic among them. But the upmarket plumbing products gained market share to make up for the shortfall. More importantly, in the industrial valves division, Pegler is seeing steady improvement in demand continuing in the current year and generating a sufficient profit increase to tide things over until the next upswing in UK building activity.

Overseas, the group has bettered the bullet by closing PVF in the U.S., the only big loss-maker, which was unable to cope with the downturn in the petrochemicals industry which hit the business soon after it was acquired in 1982. The closure leaves the group in a better position to pursue its steady UK expansion policy, notably with the purchase of Satchwell Services (environmental controls) from GEC. The current year should see more steady progress to £18m-£20m pre-tax. Yielding 7 per cent, the shares up 5p to 24p, are a solid defensive stock.

Commodity losses hit Brown & Jackson

A turnaround from a profit to a loss at Orionwich, commodity trading company, has left taxable profits of Brown & Jackson, marketing and distribution, commodity trading concern, down from £687,000 to just £73,000 for 1984. Again there is no dividend payment on ordinary and preference shares.

The directors state that but for the reversal at Orionwich, the group would have registered continued steady progress in its overall profitability in 1984. Turnover expanded from £58.1m to £136.48m during the 12 months to December 31 last, and pre-tax profits were after interest payable down from £134,000 to £18,000.

The directors explain that the commodity losses resulted from the high volatility of commodity prices stimulated by the currency fluctuations which have characterised the economic scene over the last year.

They add, however, that Orionwich has reduced its trading volumes and is showing a small profit in the current year. Tax charge for the 12 months was £84,000 (£82,000) and after minorities £33,000 (nil) and an extraordinary credit of £106,000 (£82,000) 1985 pre-tax profits are £133p (1984 £106,000). The extraordinary items for the period arose on the disposal and closure of subsidiaries, the directors state.

J. Smart

The directors of J. Smart (Contractors) estimate that profits before tax for the year to July 7, 1985, will be not less than £1.2m, which would be an increase of £367,000 over last year. They add that the figure will be made up of trading profits, up from £1.1m to £1.5m, and profits on the sale of investments of £287,000 against £100,465.

The interim dividend is to be raised from 1.1p to 1.2p net per share, and a final of 3.15p (2.85p) is promised. Turnover is running at approximately the same level as last year.

C. R. Packaging has had a buoyant start to the year, but Tronox experienced a downturn in business as a result of a considerable reduction in demand by the home computer industry. The chairman added that the pyrotechnics business had a significantly improved order book, while Dawes Cycles continue to perform satisfactorily in a difficult market place.

The William Low rights issue has been taken up to 93.3 per cent. The remaining 6.7 per cent (202,579 shares) has been sold in the market at approximately 65p per share net.

Pre-tax profits of Rowe Evans Investments, plantations concern, doubled from £1.89m to £3.89m for 1984, and the dividend is lifted from 1.35p to 2.25p per share.

After tax of £1.98m, compared with £950,000, and minority interests, £148,000 (same), earnings are shown as 6.05p, against 5.33p.

Pre-tax figure included associate companies' profits of £1.6m (£1m) but was after interest payable of £52,000 (£134,000). Extraordinary credits amounted to £322,000 (£260,000) leaving the attributable balance at £2.09m (£1.16m). Dividends will absorb £656,000 (£383,000) leaving £1.43m (£778,000) retained.

Tuned up and ready for market

SONGS OF PRAISE and Britain's number one selling single 19 could hardly be said to be on the same wave band.

But both were made using the equipment of Advanced Music Systems, a company that will be joining the stock market next month, with a value of between £30m and £50m.

The group claims to be the world leader in the market for digital and analog audio processing equipment. It designs and manufactures a high quality range of products which it sells to the professional audio and broadcasting industries—to television and radio, recording studios and to video and film production companies.

The market in digital audio equipment is just becoming fashionable. "Like turbo engines are to cars, digital audio equipment is to the music industry," explains Mr Stuart Newson, who at 33 is co-founder of the company with 33-year-old Mr Mark Crabtree.

The equipment translates audio signals into computer language, so that it can be electronically edited, maintaining and enhanced while retaining the quality of the sound. It can introduce a delay, change the pitch of the sound or create an echo. Drum beats and whole backing tracks can be stored and triggered on demand.

While the pop music industry is not AMS's most important customer, Mr Newson says that it is pop music that drives it forward.

The group, which has developed original ways of manipulating sound for such pop stars as Phil Collins (whose latest album No Jacket Required has been at the top of the album charts) says that it would now be difficult to find a top twenty single that does not use its equipment.

AMS started making digital equipment nine years ago, and has grown up with the market. In each of the last four years turnover and profits have doubled, and in 1984, the company made £1.9m pre-tax profits on sales of £35m.

The volume of exports has

grown even faster, and in 1984 and 1985 AMS was awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

About 18 per cent of sales went to the U.S. last year, but the company expects this percentage to rise to reflect the dominance of the U.S. in the market. The recent move in the U.S. towards stereo sound in television is opening new markets to AMS.

Demand for high quality sound is also being fostered by the success of compact disc players.

The group is continually developing new products and adding new software and hardware parts to existing ranges to prevent them from becoming obsolete and to maintain its lead in the market. AMS currently has about nine different products which sell for an average price of £2,500.

All of the company's products have been developed by Mr Crabtree with a team of a dozen full-time R and D staff. AMS will be coming to the market via an offer for sale by Barclays Merchant Bank. While the final details have yet to be agreed, the shares are expected to be offered on a p/e multiple of about 20. Brokers to the issue are Rowe and Pitman.

Brent Walker offer

The offer for sale of shares in Brent Walker, the leisure group returning to the stock market after two years absence, has been oversubscribed 1.85 times.

For the 9.2m shares offered at 130p each, applications for 17,026,400 shares have been received, and will be allocated as follows: applications of 400,100 will be chosen by ballot, and met in full; between 1,500 and 25,000 shares will be allocated by weighted ballot, with 1,500-14,500 receiving 1,200; 5,000-10,000 receiving 4,000, and 11,000-25,000 receiving 8,000 shares. Applications for more than 30,000 shares will receive about 50 per cent of the amount applied for.

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Over-the-Counter Market

| High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Gross Yield | %E | Fully |
|------|-----|-------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|------|-------|
| 146 | 122 | Ass. Brit. Ind. Ord. | 146 | — | 6.4 | 4.3 | 8.1 |
| 181 | 136 | Ass. Brit. Ind. CULS. | 180 | — | 10.0 | 6.6 | — |
| 77 | 41 | Airgroup Group | 53 | — | 6.4 | 12.1 | 5.9 |
| 42 | 26 | Armstrong and Rhodes | 37 | — | 2.9 | 7.8 | 4.6 |
| 152 | 108 | Bardon Hill | 152 | — | 3.4 | 2.2 | 15.3 |
| 58 | 42 | Brey Technologies | 55 | — | 3.9 | 7.0 | 8.8 |
| 201 | 161 | CCL Ordway | 163 | +2 | 12.0 | 7.4 | 4.0 |
| 152 | 110 | CCL 11pc Conv. Pral. | 110 | — | 15.7 | 13.8 | — |
| 130 | 100 | Carborundum Ord. | 118 | +1 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 5.8 |
| 88 | 84 | Carborundum 7.5% PI | 86 | — | 10.7 | 12.2 | — |
| 72 | 46 | Deborah Services | 46 | — | 6.5 | 14.1 | — |
| 330 | 182 | Frank Horrell | 330 | — | 13.7 | 5.8 | 8.3 |
| 269 | 170 | Frank Horrell Pr Ord 87 | 354 | — | 9.6 | 3.6 | 10.6 |
| 22 | 25 | Frederick Parker | 29 | — | — | — | — |
| 59 | 33 | George Blair | 58 | — | — | — | — |
| 80 | 50 | Ind. Fraction Casings | 78 | +1 | 2.7 | 10.4 | 7.1 |
| 215 | 180 | Isis Group | 180 | — | 15.0 | 8.3 | 7.1 |
| 101 | 101 | Jackson Group | 109ad | +2 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 7.2 |
| 265 | 213 | James Burrough | 255 | — | 13.7 | 5.8 | 8.3 |
| 51 | 43 | John Burrough Spc PI | 54 | — | 12.9 | 14.3 | — |
| 34 | 71 | John Howard and Co. | 90 | — | 5.0 | 5.3 | 7.5 |
| 225 | 100 | Lingaphone Ord. | 223 | — | 15.0 | 16.3 | — |
| 100 | 93 | Lingaphone 10.5pc PI | 92ad | — | 6.9 | 1.1 | 27.4 |
| 650 | 300 | Minihouse Holding NV | 628 | — | 5.0 | 8.0 | — |
| 120 | 31 | Robert Jenkins | 62 | — | 5.0 | 16.8 | 17.9 |
| 50 | 28 | Scruttons "A" | 54 | — | 5.0 | 6.7 | 3.8 |
| 50 | 41 | Torday and Carlisle | 52 | — | 5.0 | 6.7 | 3.8 |
| 444 | 330 | Trevan Holdings | 330 | — | 1.3 | 4.3 | 14.8 |
| 30 | 17 | Unilock Holdings | 30 | — | 1.3 | 4.3 | 14.8 |
| 103 | 81 | Walter Alexander | 102 | — | 17.4 | 7.6 | 10.1 |
| 247 | 216 | W. S. Yeates | 276 | — | 17.4 | 7.6 | 10.1 |

Prices and details of services now available on Prestel, page 48148

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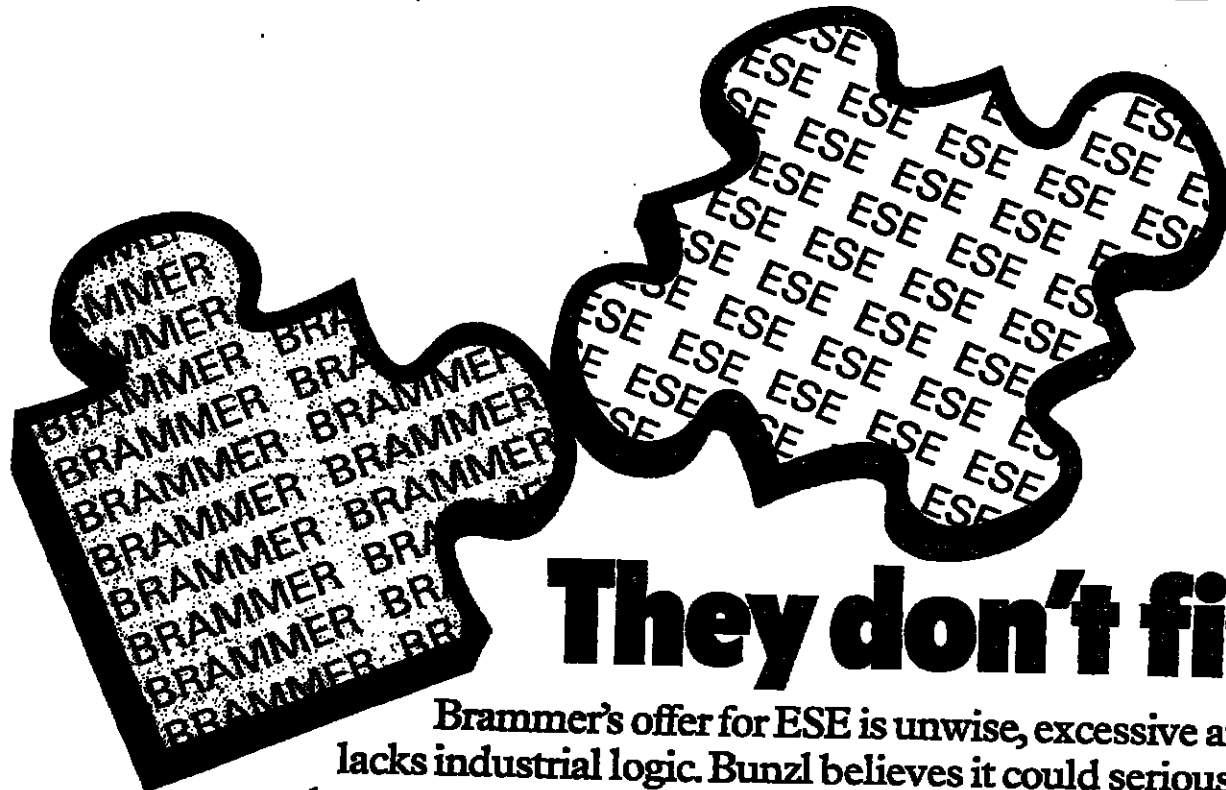
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VOTE AGAINST
BRAMMER'S OFFER FOR ESE

They don't fit!

Brammer's offer for ESE is unwise, excessive and lacks industrial logic. Bunzl believes it could seriously weaken your Company, and diminish the value of your shares. You should reject it immediately.

ESE will dilute Brammer's earnings per share by more than 15 per cent.

ESE will reduce Brammer's net tangible assets per share by nearly 30 per cent.

ESE will stretch Brammer's management resources still further.

ESE will deprive you of the benefit of Bunzl's generous offer of 397p* per Brammer share and a significant increase in capital value and income.

*Based on the middle market price of Bunzl shares derived from The Stock Exchange Daily List for 4th June 1985.

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The Directors of Bunzl plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. The Directors of Bunzl plc accept responsibility accordingly.

At the 86th Annual General Meeting of

EIS
Group P.L.C.

on 5th June, 1985

The Chairman, Mr. M. Q. Walters, reported that in 1984 the Group made record pre-tax profits of £4.2m. These have increased in every year since 1970.

1985 is expected to be another year of progress with results commensurate with the increased size of the Group.

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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE: Marketing and Advertising

IT IS not easy to walk down New York's more fashionable avenues these days without being visually assaulted by one or another of Europe's swankier retailers.

Gucci is battling it out on two prime corner sites opposite the newly-opened Aquascutum, not a stone's throw from the graceful renaissance palace which houses the Plaza Hotel. Jaeger is just around the corner, Charles Jourdan up the road, and Laura Ashley not far away.

But the biggest sensation of the year is in the more fickle business of fashion for the young, where a clutch of Benetton shops has established an unmovable position on Fifth Avenue. There are three of them, standing out like vivid, multi-coloured orchids, within a few yards of the incongruous mock Gothic towers of St Patrick's Cathedral. And scattered elsewhere in the avenue are another four.

Benetton shops are now a familiar sight in countries across Western Europe. Until the past couple of years, the main thrust of the company's export drive has been out into the EEC from its base at Treviso, near Venice, in Northern Italy. But the direction of its growth has now shifted decisively to the U.S., where Aldo Benetton, managing director, expects the company to show explosive growth from around 200 shops today to 1,000 within three years, against a current total of 2,640 shops worldwide.

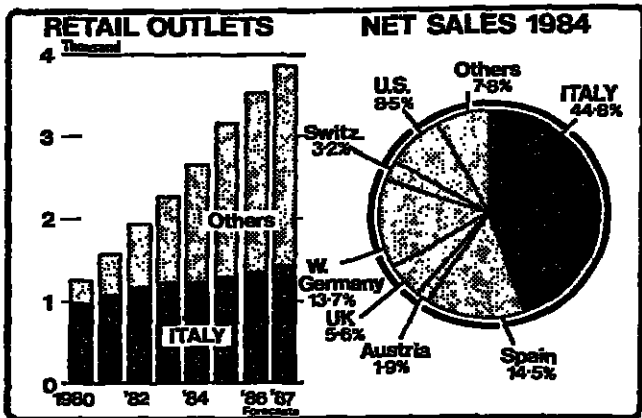
This rate of expansion would expose any company to a sizeable risk, let alone a modestly-sized family group (sales last year of \$324m) based 3,000 miles away from the most competitive market in the world. But over the years, Benetton has developed some powerful marketing antidotes, which, it believes, should serve it equally well in the U.S.

The first is the company's system of franchising its shops, although it refuses to call it that. This method of operating is tailor-made for the U.S., where McDonald's manager outlets and a host of other retail chains do not—the system, demonstrated clearly on Fifth Avenue, of establishing a number of shops in the same area or street. Angelo Savardi, whose company, Villa Minelli, is Benetton's agent in Los Angeles, says emphatically that franchising different outlets in apparently competing areas does not hurt the company.

Indeed, Savardi says he has no problem in finding suitable retailers in California, despite the cost of entry. On average, a Benetton shopkeeper would expect to spend around \$170,000 setting up his establishment, and in a large outlet on a smart street, he might be thinking of as much as \$300,000 or even more.

Third, Benetton puts a great deal of energy behind its promotional effort. Fourth, the company runs its product lines with an eye to maintaining minimum inventory. Production is typically only authorised against orders. Shelf life and the passage of a product through the production and distribution system—its highly computerised—has been reduced, freeing up cash, and thus limiting the company's financial risk in product lines which are by nature extremely ephemeral.

Some analysts are not convinced that all this adds up to a long-term strategy for the company in the U.S. They see the strength of the European group as primarily a reflection



Italian style on Fifth Avenue

Terry Dodsworth on Benetton's U.S. strategy

into manufacturing in its 10 company factories, subcontracting a good percentage of the work, running the wholesale distribution system, and designing the range of cotton and wool knitwear and casual clothing.

Second, Benetton has found that it can create a healthy form of internal competition by using its franchising system in a way which other conventional shopping chains do not—the system, demonstrated clearly on Fifth Avenue, of establishing a number of shops in the same area or street. Angelo Savardi, whose company, Villa Minelli, is Benetton's agent in Los Angeles, says emphatically that franchising different outlets in apparently competing areas does not hurt the company.

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Some analysts are not convinced that all this adds up to a long-term strategy for the company in the U.S. They see the strength of the European group as primarily a reflection

of the high valuation of the dollar. Indeed, Benetton started to move in on the U.S. in 1980, at around the time that the U.S. currency began its long run up to become today's super-dollar. It is perhaps no coincidence that its progress in the U.S. is being emulated by other European retailers, such as IKEA, the Scandinavian furniture group, and that other big companies like Euromarche, the big French supermarket chain, are now testing the water.

Palmeri, however, does not appear unduly concerned about currency considerations. For a start, he does not believe that the dollar is going to fall very much more this year. And second, he is planning to begin manufacturing in the U.S. as a way of hedging the currency risk as well as developing a closer link between production and the local market.

The main restraint on growth as he sees it is the financial limitation imposed by the family structure of the company. This is why Benetton is likely to make a public issue for about 25 per cent of the group within the next two years, and why he is looking for a big financial partner in the U.S. to offer suitable financing packages to the retail network.

Financial support for the network, he believes, is the key to rapid growth, because of the tight correlation between the throughput of the shops and the development of the group's production. If the shop demand is there, it will create the incentive for the expansion of manufacturing which lies at the heart of the business.

At the same time, he is seeking further insurance from the natural swings and roundabouts of the fashion market by extending the range of items in the product line and the type of products sold.

The question other retailers are asking is how well these methods will stand up to the rough and tumble of the American market once the novelty factor has worn off. Already imitators are beginning to emerge, carrying the time-honoured American tradition that a good idea bears repetition. At the same time, the consumer boom that has fuelled the current U.S. expansion may well fall away over the next 12 months.

To all of these doubts, Palmeri responds with a marketing man's credo. "We live, and I believe will continue to live more so, in a competitive and continuously changing market where we can only survive and prosper if we are in contact with and respond to what the market wants."

Hungarian advertising

Something to sell now

BY DAVID BUCHAN

"YOU COULD not, for instance, advertise bananas in Hungary," says a senior executive in a leading Budapest advertising agency, "because there rarely are any." Bananas, like a few other tropical products, remain virtually unavailable in the Soviet bloc, even in relatively prosperous Hungary.

The shortage economy has never been conducive to the development of advertising. In the West, flashing neon signs and screaming billboards have become part of the way of life. If only because advertising, conceived of as a deliberate attempt to stimulate or create demand, meets a real need in economies where supply tends to match or exceed demand. In Eastern Europe, generally, the problem has been reversed: too much demand, too little supply—a situation which anything but the most low-key "informative" advertising would simply aggravate.

This prohibition on "any advertising" which is not covered by sufficient quantity of goods "remains an important part of both Hungarian law and the code of ethics by which the Hungarian Advertising Association (HAA) regulates itself.

But few products now fit into the "banana" category of the non-existent, and as supplies of goods improve, presenting the consumer with some choice, so advertising has developed in Hungary into fairly big business. The trend is widespread in Eastern Europe as Comecon countries all become a bit more market-oriented, but it is most marked in Hungary, where four large agencies and dozens of smaller ones now take in \$3.5 bn (Pfor 85.2m) in advertising revenue a year.

Hungarian advertisements in recent years have come a long way in style. They have become snappier and more eye-catching and percolate virtually every medium—newspapers, radio and TV. To the Western eye, many have a dated look, of perhaps the early 1960s. Advertisements in Hungary are still less visual and with more prose and

less sex and glamour in them than is found in the West. Nonetheless, they are still a far cry from 1950s-era hoardings and billboards proclaiming "Glory to the Party" and the like.

The catalyst for advertising growth has been Hungary's economic reforms which began in 1968. Up to then, Hungarian companies spent not inconsiderable sums on advertising—forty 2bn (€3.2m at current exchange rate) in 1967 for instance—but in rudimentary ways (with slogans like "Buy shoes—they are in the shoe shop") and as a very ancillary part of their marketing.

Since, then and particularly since the post-1978 acceleration of the reforms, Hungarian companies have had to plan their own production as central ministries stopped issuing them with detailed targets, to live more on their own earnings as the Government cut budget subsidies, and to compete more with each other as the old "horizontal industrial groups" are broken up.

In these circumstances, many of them have come to see advertising as an essential means of maintaining or increasing market share at home or abroad. Not all, says Peter Nagy, secretary of the HAA. There are still some managers cast in the old central planning mould who resist spending on market promotion. Nagy points out that Hungarian companies still spend on average less than 1 per cent of their income on advertising, compared with the West European average of 5 to 6 per cent. Dr László Szabo, head of the Hungarian Institute for Market Research (HIMR), attributes this to the tight hold which the government still keeps on profit margins, reducing the amount companies have to spend on advertising or market research.

Hungarian companies are still required to draw up five-year production plans, even if they no longer follow them precisely. So, increasingly, the major companies do their own



A public service ad on energy saving finds a driver, always in a hurry and trying to overtake everyone, being exhorted to "Take it easy. Whoever tries to overtake has to use a brake. While braking you waste a lot of energy."

market research, and the smaller ones commission institutes like the HIMR or the two big advertising agencies, Hungexpo and Mahir, which do in-house market research, to do it for them. The HIMR tends to subcontract studies of western markets out to western organisations, but frequently researches other Comecon markets itself.

While using market research to find out some of the things that its citizens want, the Hungarian Government has also turned to advertising to let those citizens know some of the things it wants. With the onset of the energy crisis in the early 1980s (later than in the West because of the different pattern of Soviet oil prices), public service advertising arrived in Hungary.

The specialist in this form of advertising, or refined, public propaganda, is Mahir, the country's number two ad agency which now handles for the Government 50-80m in government advertising a year. Dr Miklós Cséregi, Mahir's deputy manager and public advertising specialist, designed the Government's energy-saving advertising programme, with posters, radio and TV ads, and 80,000 home insulation brochures, and claims that, helped by the reaction to higher energy prices, the resulting savings were substantial.

Whether responsive or not to advertising, Hungarians are certainly accessible to the ad man. As Dr Gustav Hollo, deputy manager of Hungexpo, the country's largest ad agency and sole organiser of its industrial fairs, points out, Hungary is a small country, with 11m people, six national dailies (one of them in English and German), radio and television that carry 160 and 100 minutes, respectively, of commercials each week. It has relatively few specialist publications, making the placing of an ad in them, Hollo says, akin to a direct mail shot—and relatively few corporate decision-makers to reach.

But there are still some distinctive traits to show that Hungary is a Communist country. The HAA code of ethics, for instance, states that "advertisements should not emphasise the social status of their addressees as well as educational or financial differences existing among them." No appeals to snobbery. In other words, luxury consumer goods, video recorders and the like, too, are generally promoted by direct mail.

The authorities, proud though they are of Hungary's emerging consumer society, do not want the advertising industry to lay too much stress on the inequalities and the fact that some Hungarians are more equal than others.

Swire Pacific Limited

Final dividends for the year ended 31st December 1984
Scrip Dividends

At the annual general meeting held on 23rd May 1985 shareholders approved the recommended final dividends for the year ended 31st December 1984.

By the closing date of 24th May 1985 for the lodgement of election forms in Hong Kong and London, elections for cash dividends had been received from the holders of 189,984,090 'A' shares and 243,117,839 'B' shares. Accordingly, the following new 'A' and 'B' shares have been allotted to shareholders in respect of the final dividends for 1984 to be satisfied by the issue of scrip:

| | Number of new shares issued | Proportion of existing shares in issue |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 'A' shares | 2,494,915 | 0.9617% |
| 'B' shares | 24,026,584 | 3.0857% |

Certificates for the new 'A' and 'B' shares will be despatched to shareholders on 7th June 1985 and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has granted permission for the shares to be quoted and dealt in from that date.

By Order of the Board
JOHN SWIRE & SONS (H.K.) LIMITED
Secretaries

Hong Kong,
6th June 1985

Swire Pacific Limited
The Swire Group
Swire House, Hong Kong



BANCO DI ROMA
(Incorporated as a Società per Azioni in the Republic of Italy)
London Branch

U.S. \$150,000,000

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Receipts due 1991

In accordance with the provisions of the Receipts, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the period from 7th June 1985 to 9th December 1985 has been established at 7 1/8% per cent. per annum. The Interest Payment Date will be 9th December 1985. Payment, which will amount to US\$ 4,014.78 per US\$ 100,000 Receipt, will be made upon presentation of the relative Receipt.

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| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| ABN Bank | 12 1/8% | Hill Samuel | 12 1/8% |
| Allied Irish Bank | 12 1/8% | C. Hoare & Co. | 12 1/8% |
| American Express Bk. | 12 1/8% | Hongkong & Shanghai | 12 1/8% |
| Henry Ansbacher | 12 1/8% | Johnson Matthew Bk. | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of America | 12 1/8% | Kerr & Co. Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| Associates Cap. Corp. | 12 1/8% | Lloyds Bank | 12 1/8% |
| Banco de Bilbao | 12 1/8% | Edward Manson & Co. | 12 1/8% |
| Bank Hapoalim | 12 1/8% | Meghraj & Sons Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| BCCI | 12 1/8% | Midland Bank | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of Ireland | 12 1/8% | Morgan Grenfell | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of Cyprus | 12 1/8% | Mount-Credit Corp. Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of India | 12 1/8% | National Bk. of Kuwait | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of Scotland | 12 1/8% | National Girobank | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of Western Ltd. | 12 1/8% | Norwich & London | 12 1/8% |
| Barclays Bank | 12 1/8% | Northern Bank Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| Beneficial Trust Ltd. | 12 1/8% | Norwich Gen. Trust | 12 1/8% |
| Brit. Bank of Mid. East | 12 1/8% | People's Trust | 12 1/8% |
| Brown Shipley | 12 1/8% | Provincial Trust Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| Bank of Netherl. | 12 1/8% | R. Raphael & Sons | 12 1/8% |
| Canada Permanent | 12 1/8% | P. S. Ransom | 12 1/8% |
| Cayzer Ltd. | 12 1/8% | Roxburgh Guarantee | 12 1/8% |
| Cedar Holdings | 13 % | Royal Bank of Scotland | 12 1/8% |
| Charterhouse Japhet | 12 1/8% | Royal Trust Co. Canada | 12 1/8% |
| Citibank N.A. | 12 1/8% | Standard Chartered | 12 1/8% |
| Citibank Savings | 12 1/8% | T.C.B. | 12 1/8% |
| Clydebank Bank | 12 1/8% | Trustee Savings Bank | 12 1/8% |
| C. E. Coates & Co. Ltd. | 12 1/8% | United Bank of Kuwait | 12 1/8% |
| Consolidated Bank | 12 1/8% | United Bank of London | 12 1/8% |
| Consolidated Credit | 12 1/8% | Westpac Banking Corp. | 12 1/8% |
| Co-operative Bank | 12 1/8% | Whiteaway Laidlaw | 12 1/8% |
| The Cyprus Popular Bk. | 12 1/8% | Williams & Glyn's | 12 1/8% |
| Dunbar & Co. Ltd. | 12 1/8% | Witnurst Sec. Ltd. | 12 1/8% |
| Dumcan Lawrie | 12 1/8% | Yorkshire Bank | 12 1/8% |
| E. T. Trust | 13 % | Meeting of the Accounting | 12 1/8% |
| First Nat. Trust | 12 1/8% | Committee. | 12 1/8% |
| First Nat. Fin. Corp. | 12 1/8% | * 7 day deposits 9 1/4% 1 m | 12 1/8% |
| First Nat. Secs. Ltd. | 12 1/8% | 2 m 9 1/4% 3 m 9 1/4% | 12 1/8% |
| * Robert Fleming & Co. | 12 1/8% | months notice 12 1/2%. At call | 12 1/8% |
| Robert Fraser & Ptns. | 12 1/8% | £1,000+ returns depending | 12 1/8% |
| Grindlays Bank | 12 1/8% | on deposits £1,000 and | 12 1/8% |
| * J. H. Macdonald | 12 1/8% | over. Deposits £1,000 and | 12 1/8% |
| Hambros Bank | 12 1/8% | over 9 1/4% current | 12 1/8% |
| Heritable & Gen. Trust | 12 1/8% | * 21-day deposits over £1,000 10 | 12 1/8% |
| | | 1/2% Mortgage base rate | 12 1/8% |
| | | 12 1/2% Special Rate | 12 1/8% |
| | | * Demand deposits 9 1/4%. | 12 1/8% |

SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS
FINANCIAL TIMES

Thursday June 6 1985

WALL STREET

**Record hit
on tax plan
optimism**

INVESTORS took an increasingly optimistic view of President Reagan's tax plans during trading on Wall Street yesterday to send the market to a record level, writes Terry Byland in New York.

Reports of lower North Sea oil prices, which strengthened the view that inflation will remain low in the U.S. as the economy recovers coupled with higher bond prices, also buoyed the market's mood.

Dr Henry Kaufman, senior economist at Salomon Brothers, said that if economic figures expected soon are weak, the discount rate may be cut again.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 5.26 at 1,320.56.

The bond market opened with further gains of three quarters of a point, which brought yields at the long end down to around 10 1/4 per cent. Traders identified Japanese securities houses as among the customers for U.S. Federal securities. Prices moved erratically later as bouts of profit-taking by traders were absorbed, but remained near their peaks.

The stock market opened around 8 higher on the index at a record, with the reporting tape running seven minutes late as buying orders from private investors flooded brokerage offices.

Turnover was nearly 50 per cent up on the previous session, and the market remained very strong, although some prices were trimmed at mid-session.

The best features were among the heavy industrial stocks which benefit from lower interest rates. Minnesota Mining gained 5 1/4 to \$77, and Litton Industries at \$88 1/4 was 5 1/4 better.

Short-term rates steadied after plunging sharply in early trading. Falls of around 30 basis points in Treasury-bill rates and 60 basis points in bond yields since Memorial Day have strengthened the attractions of equities.

Analysts point out that the Reagan tax bill would strengthen the appeal of the stock market for private investors, who would also have their taxes reduced.

Mr Peter Caneio, of Bear Stearns, said that, "the first sign that we are not heading for a recession will send the stock market shooting ahead."

Wall Street gave a favourable reception to General Motors' \$5bn purchase of Hughes Aircraft. At \$72 1/4, GM stock gained 5 1/4. Ford, now clear of involvement, added 3/4 to \$44 1/4 in heavy trading.

Aerospace issues responded strongly to lower interest rates, with Boeing gaining 5 1/4 to \$88 1/4 and General Dynamics 3 1/4 to \$74 1/4.

In chemicals, Monsanto jumped 5/8 to \$47 1/4 and Union Carbide, at \$41 1/4, was 5/8 better.

The reported North Sea oil cuts depressed oil stocks again, with Exxon 5/8 off at \$52 1/4. But airlines continued to do well. Pan American remained steady at a near peak for the year of \$87.

Some high-technology stocks were left out of the party as Wang Laboratories slumped by 1 1/4 to \$15 1/4, in heavy selling after the board predicted a loss for the final quarter.

The mainframe computers, too, were mixed, with IBM 3/4 down at \$129 as heavy turnover evidently included selling by institutions which have backed off since the computer leader warned on second-quarter profits.

Digital Equipment plunged by 5 1/4 to \$102 1/4. But Burroughs added 3/4 to \$63 1/4 and NCR, at \$29 1/4, gained 5/8.

Among speculative issues, Warner Communications jumped 1 1/4 to \$28 1/4 as plans for a leveraged buyout collapsed. Diamond Shamrock fell 1 1/4 to \$15 1/4 after bearish comments in the investment press.

Du Pont dipped 5/8 to \$50 after a downgrading by a Merrill Lynch analyst. There was brisk turnover in RCA after hints - unsupported by the board - that a buyer might have been found for the Hertz Car Rental subsidiary.

After its commercial paper was downgraded by Standard & Poor's, the credit market rating agency, BankAmerica suffered another session of heavy selling, including a 225,000 share block at \$19 1/4. The stock later traded at \$19 1/4, down 5/8.

In the credit market, federal funds traded at 7 1/4 per cent, and the Fed helped liquidity by purchasing bills. Falls in rates increased sharply from one-year maturities onwards, with the longer end holding at opening levels.

EUROPE

**A struggle
to regain
equilibrium**

AN ERRATIC course was traced during trading in Frankfurt yesterday as the market struggled to regain an equilibrium after the recent intervention by profit-takers.

Sellers took control at the opening, but a measure of confidence in the market's underlying strength was provided by the emergence of buying at mid-session before a drift lower near the close.

As the technical reaction to the 11 days of consecutive records continued, the Commerzbank index eased 8 1/4 to 1,335.8, taking its loss during the past two days to 19.2.

Foreign investors again made their presence felt, although their buying orders were smaller and tended to be more narrowly directed towards stocks which failed to encounter the full force of last week's support.

Volkswagen was one such stock. Buying orders from domestic and foreign sources pushed the issue DM 7.10 higher to a peak for the day of DM 267.

This performance was the highlight of an otherwise mixed automotive section. A casualty of early profit-taking and slipped DM 1 before a recovery forced it to close up DM 1 at DM 814. BMW eased DM 1 to DM 379, while Porsche gained a further DM 15 to 1,255 after touching DM 1,283 at mid-session.

A pattern failed to develop among banks, which were at the centre of the recent surge. Deutsche Bank closed at DM 541 after a DM 3 rise, while Commerzbank shed DM 1 to DM 208 and Dresdner eased DM 1.50 to DM 232.

Among engineering firms, Linde was again on the rise, firming DM 8.00 to DM 487 followed by KHD, up DM 2 to DM 258, while GHH dropped 50 pf to DM 148.50. Stores were again in demand. Karstadt rose another DM 2.50 to DM 224.50, Herten DM 9 to DM 183 and Kaufhof DM 6.50 to DM 231.

Profit-taking also surfaced in the bond market with prices easing an average 15 to 20 pf as relatively large amounts were put up for sale. The Bundesbank bought DM 23.3m worth of domestic paper after selling DM 64.9m on Tuesday.

The Amsterdam market moved to a record, as the General index added 1.2 to 213.7. The previous record of 213.0 was set on May 6 this year.

Reflecting a broad sweep of support, indices covering banking, insurance and industrial stocks also reached new highs. Wall Street's overnight strength and optimism over easier interest rates led the market higher.

Banks and financials were keenly sought. ABN jumped FI 6.50 to FI 453.00, while NMB turned its unchanged opening into a gain of FI 2 and finished at FI 194.00.

Among market leaders, Royal Dutch firmed FI 1.60 to FI 197.40, Unilever FI 1 to FI 348.50 and Akzo FI 1.20 to FI 110.10. Insurer, Amey closed at a peak of FI 249.0, up FI 1 after being FI 1.50 higher at the start of business.

Dutch Government bond prices were mixed as investors switched attention to the state's new 10-year 7 1/2 per cent issue.

Paris shares were mixed as news of the deterioration in France's current account balance of payments during the first quarter hit investor confidence.

News that the Government has provided Peugeot with a FF 2bn subsidised loan backed a FF 2 rise in the company's shares to FF 398 while Michelin firmed FF 13 to FF 1,063.

Turnover remained high in Zurich as

shares moved ahead, encouraged by Wall Street's overnight performance.

The banking sector, which has been neglected during the recent advance, came in for support with several issues reaching records for the year. Bank Leu added SwFr 25 to SwFr 3,825 while Credit Suisse added SwFr 20 to SwFr 2,625. Blue chips were generally higher, although second-line stocks came back from their recent highs.

Brussels stock advanced in brisk trading with most activity concentrated in the utility sector, although chemicals were again firm.

Solvay firmed BFr 80 to BFr 4,555, UBC BFr 30 to BFr 5,510 and Tessenderlo BFr 5 to BFr 3,145.

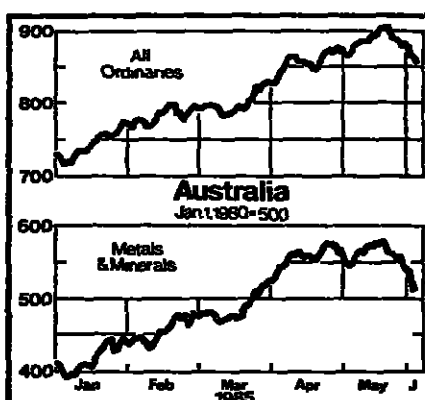
Dull trading persisted in Stockholm as most stocks headed slowly lower. The absence of a firm indication that interest rates may ease again deterred investors from entering the market.

By the close of trading, falls outnumbered advances by three to one after a marginal rise in turnover.

Electrolux dropped SKr 4 to SKr 267, while Volvo dropped SKr 2 to SKr 218.

Milan prices ended broadly higher as active demand prevailed throughout the session. Dealers noted international buying interest which was sufficient to boost the market's general tone and end a string of declines.

A slow decline developed in Madrid with banks at the centre of weak selling pressure.



AUSTRALIA

INVESTOR uncertainty in Sydney following the release on Tuesday of the federal Government's tax proposals caused prices to fall heavily for the second consecutive session.

The All-Ordinaries share index fell as low as 852.5 before firming in late trading to finish 7.1 down at 854.2.

The Government's proposal to tax gold mines led to a withdrawal of foreign investors from that sector. Both Kidston and Central Norseman lost 30 cents to A\$3.80 and A\$7.80 respectively.

Castlemaine Toohey, the brewer, was heavily traded with 2.8m shares changing hands. Shares rose 80 cents to A\$6.10 after rumours that the Bond Corporation, which owns Swan Brewery in Western Australia, had placed an order for 10 per cent of Castlemaine's stock.

BHP and Shell Australia announced that they held 75 per cent of the share capital in Woodside Petroleum, which has secured financing for its North-west Shelf oil exploration project. BHP ended 6 cents lower at A\$8.10 and Woodside was off 4 cents at A\$1.56.

In banks, National Australia slipped 4 cents to A\$4.34.

CANADA

DESPITE a continued weakness in energy issues, stocks in Toronto rallied in heavy trading.

Banks sustained their recent strengths with Bank of Montreal ahead C\$4 to C\$30 1/4 and Toronto Dominion rising C\$4 to C\$23 1/4.

Mining issues were active. Dome Mines moved C\$4 lower to C\$10 1/4, Placer Development was off C\$4 at C\$23 1/4 and Lac Minerals eased C\$4 to C\$28.

In Montreal, industrials, utilities and banks showed gains.

TOKYO

**Volume rise
accompanies
sharp gains**

INVESTORS suddenly turned bullish in Tokyo yesterday, encouraged by Tuesday's rally and expectations of an interest rate cut in the U.S., writes Shigeo Nishitaki of Jiji Press.

Share prices advanced across the board, except some biotechnologies and housing-related stocks.

The Nikkei-Dow 225-issue market indicator jumped 109.90 to 12,693.21, regaining the rest of the ground lost on Monday. Volume expanded to 708.39m shares from 458m. Gains outnumbered losses 558 to 280, with 137 issues unchanged.

A leading broker said investors bought at a hectic pace and almost indiscriminately.

Asahi Chemical, one of the companies conducting clinical tests on the tumour necrosis factor (TNF), drew massive buy orders and topped the active issue list with 24.68m shares changing hands. It gained Y50 to a high of Y1,130 in the morning but later fluctuated to close at Y1,090, up Y10.

Expectations of an easing in the Government's transportation administration led investors to buy Nippon Yusen, which finished Y14 higher at Y296 on the day's second heaviest trading of 17.19m shares. All Nippon Airways added Y14 to Y583.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries rose Y3 to Y293 despite decreased buying. Tokyo Gas also gained Y3 to Y229 and Sumitomo Chemical, Y9 to Y283.

Buying of non-life insurances continued, with Tokio Marine and Fire gaining Y9 to Y955, Sumitomo Marine and Fire Y16 to Y725 and Yasuda Marine and Fire Y15 to Y585. Tokio Marine and Fire ranked fifth on the list with 11.84 shares.

Following news that it will set up a car parts joint venture in Japan with General Motors, NHK Spring shot up Y71 to Y485. It was the seventh busiest stock.

Asset-heavy stocks remained popular and Keisei Electric Railway closed Y17 up at Y372. Tokyo Hotel Chain spurred Y55 to Y705, while Korakuen and Tokyo Tokai jumped Y43 to Y619 and Y21 to Y294, respectively. Among construction, Obayashi Corp was Y16 up at Y303.

Trading further increased on the bond market, and the yield on the 7.5 per cent government bonds due in December 1993 dropped from 6.480 per cent to an all-time low of 6.455 per cent. Various financial institutions opted for continuous buying and selling to reap fast profits.

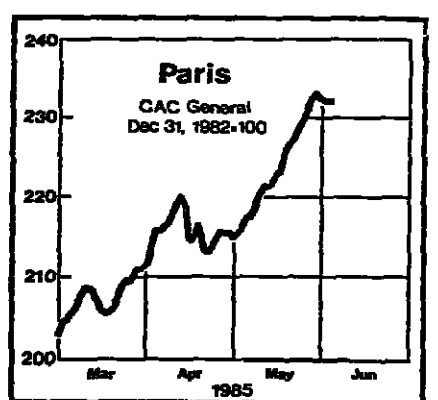
HONG KONG

SELLING PRESSURE which began late Tuesday afternoon in Hong Kong continued throughout the day to leave prices mostly weaker.

Institutions remained on the sidelines and small investors were left to create the little activity seen in the market.

Last-minute buying from overseas took Jardine Matheson 30 cents higher to HK\$12. Rumors that Jardines would announce development projects tomorrow kept sentiment bullish.

Elsewhere, Hutchison Whampoa lost 40 cents to HK\$25, Hongkong Wharf shed 15 cents to HK\$36.00 and China Light ended 20 cents easier at HK\$15.90.



set up market-making jobbing companies to "capture" part of the French market.

The new trading session would run from 10am to 11.30am, supplementing regular hours of 12.30pm to 2.30pm, M Dupont said.

Among other innovations which increase the dynamism of the French market but also increase the vulnerability of brokers to competition both from foreign firms and the French banks, is the introduction this autumn of a futures market in bonds. Short-term financial instruments are to be added to this market in 1986.

Further, in the second half of next year, experiments will start up for key stocks using the continuous Computer Assisted Trading System (CATS) of the Toronto stock exchange.

Trading in share options, also announced by M Bérégovoy, will start in the second half of 1986, M Dupont said.

KEY MARKET MONITORS

| Tokyo New Stock Exchange | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------|
| Jan 4, 1986 = 100 | | | | |
| 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 800 |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | | | | |
| 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | 1300 | 1400 |
| STOCK MARKET INDICES | | | | |
| | June 5 | Previous | Year ago | |
| NEW YORK | | | | |
| DJ Industrials | 1,320.56 | 1,315.30 | 1,124.89 | |
| DJ Transport | 655.24 | 651.88 | 479.42 | |
| DJ Utilities | 163.42 | 163.78 | 124.23 | |
| S&P Composite | 190.55 | 190.04 | 153.65 | |
| LONDON | | | | |
| FT Ord | 1,017.1 | 1,020.2 | 846.5 | |
| FT-SE 100 | 1,335.9 | 1,336.5 | 1,077.8 | |
| FT-A All-share | 644.21 | 643.80 | 505.70 | |
| FT-A 500 | 707.87 | 707.39 | 554.56 | |
| FT Gold mines | 444.3 | 450.2 | 699.3 | |
| FT-A Long grt | 10.61 | 10.58 | 10.57 | |
| TOKYO | | | | |
| Nikkei-Dow | 12,693.21 | 12,693.31 | 10,258.70 | |
| Tokyo SE | 1,000.60 | 991.17 | 792.70 | |
| AUSTRALIA | | | | |
| All Ord | 858.8 | 861.2 | 674.7 | |
| Metals & Mins. | 508.8 | 518.0 | 448.3 | |
| AUSTRIA | | | | |
| Credit Aktien | 99.47 | 99.17 | 54.69 | |
| BELOJEN | | | | |
| Belgen SE | 2,389.12 | 2,371.17 | — | |
| CANADA | | | | |
| Toronto | | | | |
| Metals & Mins | 1,950.9 | 1,952.4 | 2,022.0 | |
| Composite | 2,758.1 | 2,752.9 | 2,280.9 | |
| Montreal | | | | |
| Portfolio | 135.22 | 134.43 | 111.07 | |
| DENMARK | | | | |
| SE | closed | 191.42 | 184.95 | |
| FRANCE | | | | |
| CAC Gen | 232.0 | 232.0 | 173.1 | |
| Ind. Tendance | 130.3 | 130.0 | 88.9 | |
| WEST GERMANY | | | | |
| FAZ-Aktien | 454.54 | 457.73 | 344.12 | |
| Commerzbank | 1,356.8 | 1,344.2 | 989.9 | |
| HONG KONG | | | | |
| Hang Seng | 1,627.82 | 1,643.35 | 932.44 | |
| ITALY | | | | |
| Banca Com. | 308.53 | 302.77 | 207.27 | |
| NETHERLANDS | | | | |
| ANP-CBS Gen | 213.7 | 212.5 | 157.8 | |
| ANP-CBS Ind | 176.4 | 174.8 | 135.5 | |
| NORWAY | | | | |
| Oslo SE | 342.51 | 343.87 | 271.22 | |
| SINGAPORE | | | | |
| Straits Times | 812.02 | 808.13 | 945.47 | |
| SOUTH AFRICA | | | | |
| JSE Golds | — | n/a | 1,029.9 | |
| JSE Industrials | — | n/a | 961.0 | |
| SPAIN | | | | |
| Madrid SE | 110.51 | 110.69 | 85.38 | |
| SWEDEN | | | | |
| J & P | 1,345.57 | 1,347.00 | 1,455.39 | |
| SWITZERLAND | | | | |
| Swiss Bank Ind | 436.5 | 436.8 | 363.7 | |
| WORLD | | | | |
| Capital Int'l | 213.8 | 213.4 | 178.7 | |
| GOLD (per ounce) | | | | |
| | June 5 | Previous | Year ago | |
| London | \$315.00 | \$315.75 | | |
| Zurich | \$314.75 | \$316.25 | | |
| Paris (filing) | \$314.49 | \$316.58 | | |
| Luxembourg | \$314.79 | \$316.25 | | |
| New York (Aug) | \$318.45 | \$319.10 | | |
| COMMODITIES | | | | |
| | June 5 | Previous | Year ago | |
| (London) | | | | |
| Silver (spot fixing) | 478.50p | 474.80p | | |
| Copper (cash) | \$1,145.00 | \$1,128.00 | | |
| Coffee (July) | \$2,042.00 | \$2,036.00 | | |
| Oil (spot Arabian light) | \$26.565 | \$26.65 | | |

LONDON

**Rally fades
as rate
hopes wilt**

THE two-day advance in London's blue chip industrials ran out of steam yesterday as hopes of an early reduction in clearing bank base rates faded. Growing oil price worries ahead of the Opec meetings have hit sterling and other European currencies.

An early downward drift in trading, which reflected an absence of support, saw the FT Ordinary share index down to 1,013.2 before recovering to end 3.1 lower at 1,017.1.

Overall conditions were extremely quiet with attendance in the market affected by the distractions of the Epsom Derby.

Gifts were easier ahead of today's start of dealings in £500m of Treasury 10 per cent 2004. Long-dated stocks drifted lower to close with losses of 1/2 and occasionally more, while falls in the shorts extended to 1/2.

Revised weakness in the leaders, prompted by bearish reports on Plessey following an investment seminar with Springour Kemp Gee on Tuesday, was largely responsible for the setback. Plessey fell 8p to 142p and GEC 8p to 182p.

On the takeover front, the only major development was news of a bid approach for Rayford Supreme, which rose 7 1/2 to 290p.

Other stocks to gain included Associated Newspapers, up 40p at 985p. Amersham International, which ended 10p higher at 380p and Tate & Lyle, also gaining 10p at 490p.

Closing losses in other leading equities were usually limited to a few pence.

Chief price changes, Page 38, Details, Page 39, Share price information, Pages 40-41

SINGAPORE

SOME late buying and short covering helped prices in a dull Singapore to end higher after two previous lower sessions.

Among stocks heavily traded, Sime Darby ended unchanged at S\$2.03 after 432,000 shares changed hands. Sigma Metal added 4 cents to S\$2.34 and United Overseas Land firmed 9 cents to S\$2.09.

Some banks regained losses experienced in the past two sessions. OCBC put on the 15 cents it lost on Tuesday to end at S\$0.35 and DBS was 10 cents higher at S\$0.25.

Hotels, properties and plantations saw small gains, while industrials ended mixed where changed.

SOUTH AFRICA

SELECTIVE buying interest in the afternoon brought gold shares in Johannesburg up from their day's lows.

Grosvet, after slipping to R15.35 earlier, finished unchanged at R15.75. Anglo American gold shed R3 to R174 and Driefontein turned 25 cents lower at R49.50.

In banks, Barclays ended unchanged at R18.80 while Nedbank lost 75 cents to R24.5.

Diamond share De Beers added 3 cents to R10.70. Rembrandt tobacco group was steady at R30.25 and Rustenburg Platinum eased 35 cents to R16.15.

PARIS

**Doors open
to bourse
deregulation**

THE PARIS bourse, which is at the centre of efforts to increase innovation in French financial markets, is to introduce a morning trading session by the end of the year to help meet demand from investors for more sophisticated trading conditions, writes David Marsh in Paris.

The move, which will apply to the about 30 of the most active stocks on the market was announced yesterday by M Xavier Dupont, head of the stockbrokers' association. It is part of a range of measures designed to keep Paris in line with the tide of deregulatory changes affecting the world's stock markets. They are also aimed at keeping France's poorly-capitalised and partly protected stockbroking community from sinking under the weight of increased international competition.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

[illegible]

Continued on Page 37

37

Continued on Page 38

ures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows
2 weeks plus the current month, but a

ures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows
2 weeks plus the current month, but a

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2 weeks plus the current month, but a

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

| AUSTRIA | | | | GERMANY | | | | NORWAY | | | | AUSTRALIA (continued) | | | | JAPAN (continued) | | | | OVER-THE-COUNTER | | | | LONDON | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|--------|--|--------------|-------|--------|--|----------------------|-------|--------|--|-----------------------|-------|--------|--|-------------------|-------|--------|--|------------------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|------|--------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|------|
| June 5 | Price | + or - | | June 5 | Price | + or - | | June 5 | Price | + or - | | June 5 | Price | + or - | | June 5 | Price | + or - | | Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last | Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last | Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last | Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last |
| Creditanstalt | 358 | | | AEG-Telef | 127.2 | +0.2 | | Bergens Bank | 136 | -0.5 | | Gen. Pro. Trust | 2.28 | -0.08 | | MHI | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Gesellschaft | 530 | | | Alteck Ver | 128.5 | +0.2 | | Borgerne Bank | 136 | +0.5 | | Hargrove Energy | 3.06 | -0.18 | | Mitsui | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Landesbank | 351 | +1 | | SABF | 250.5 | +0.4 | | Österreichische Bank | 136 | +1 | | ICI Insulation | 1.92 | -0.18 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Perimeter | 593 | | | Saver | 251.5 | +2.5 | | Elken | 148 | +1 | | Kimberlin P.P. | 0.98 | -0.01 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Veitinger Mag | 545 | -18 | | Saver-Hypo | 251 | +3 | | Kvaerner | 148 | +1 | | Kia Ora Gold | 0.13 | -0.01 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Saver-Veren | 256 | +1 | | Norik Hydro | 108 | +1 | | Land Lease | 0.8 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | BNF Bank | 256 | +1 | | Storbrand | 274 | -11.5 | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | BNW | 278 | +1 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Brown Boveri | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | | | | Compt. Bank | 288 | +0.5 | | | | | | NIH | 2.85 | -0.02 | | Nissan | 293 | +3 | | Amstel | 75 | 20 | 19 1/2 | 19 1/2 | BP | 83 | 7 | 7 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | |

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

Easier trend in sterling unsettles Gilts and equities

Plessey and GEC lose ground

Account Dealing Dates

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FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

June 5 June 4 June 3 May 31 May 20 May 10 year

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Government Securities | 81.86 | 82.00 | 81.92 | 81.56 | 81.94 | 81.02 | 79.58 |
| Fixed Interest | 86.30 | 86.36 | 86.26 | 86.06 | 86.02 | 85.91 | 83.11 |
| Ordinary | 1017.1 | 1020.2 | 1010.7 | 1009.5 | 1004.5 | 999.1 | 946.5 |
| Gold Mines | 444.5 | 450.2 | 450.7 | 451.0 | 461.4 | 463.0 | 599.3 |
| Ord. Div. Yield | 4.56 | 4.55 | 4.59 | 4.62 | 4.61 | 4.65 | 4.67 |
| Earnings, Yld. 3 (full) | 11.43 | 11.42 | 11.53 | 11.50 | 11.58 | 11.65 | 10.84 |
| P/E Ratio (incl. 100) | 10.68 | 10.69 | 10.60 | 10.58 | 10.64 | 10.48 | 11.07 |
| Total Returns (100) | 22.87 | 19.84 | 25.21 | 24.82 | 22.64 | 22.77 | 21.98 |
| Equity Turnover (100) | 379.90 | 380.65 | 410.87 | 380.80 | 380.80 | 380.80 | 380.80 |
| Equity Turnover (100) | 19.04 | 19.26 | 23.92 | 20.61 | 18.82 | 16.51 | 16.51 |
| Shares traded (m) | 184.9 | 156.6 | 223.5 | 176.5 | 185.9 | 144.3 | |

10 am 1016.7, 11 am 1016.4, Noon 1015.5, 1 pm 1013.2, 2 pm 1013.3, 3 pm 1015.3.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 15/28. Ordinary 1/7/25.

Gold Mines 12/9/25. SE Activity 1974.

Latest Index of 245 9222.

*N=10.34.

HIGHS AND LOWS

1985 Since Completion June 4 June 5

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Govt. Secs. | 82.00 | 79.02 | 187.4 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Fixed Int. | 86.30 | 86.36 | 187.4 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Ordinary | 1020.2 | 929.7 | 1024.5 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Gold Mines | 450.2 | 451.0 | 152.8 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |

S.E. ACTIVITY

June 4 June 5

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Govt. Secs. | 82.00 | 79.02 | 187.4 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Fixed Int. | 86.30 | 86.36 | 187.4 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Ordinary | 1020.2 | 929.7 | 1024.5 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |
| Gold Mines | 450.2 | 451.0 | 152.8 | 49.18 | 178.4 | 178.0 |

greeted details of the telecom-

munications agreement with

A.T. & T. Elsewhere, Ferranti

fell 4 to 129p and Electrocomp

shares dipped 10 to 275p. United

Scientific reflected fading take-

over hopes with a fresh fall to

200p, but Oxford Instruments

contrasted by rising 15 to 200p.

Elsewhere in Engineering, Wire

and Plastic advanced 11 to 177p

on revised speculative support.

Fidelity Trust rose 5 to 294p

in response to the results and

Camford moved 4 to 38p on bid

speculation. Acquisition details

lifted Simon 6 to 248p, while

improvement in yesterday's

recorded in Decca, 20p, G.M.

Firth, 49p, and Glynwed, 20p.

Spear and Jackson lost 8 to 152p

as bid hopes faded.

Business in the Food sector

tallied off and the leaders turned

irregularly. Borden continued to

advance 10 to 425p, but Tate

and Lyle, still reflecting the

interim results, gained that

round, to 490p. Secondary issues

displayed a couple of bright

features. Maynards moved

sharply higher in a restricted

market on suggestions of a bid

from Ward White and touched

23p prior to closing a net 25

pence. The preliminary results

also firm, at 326p, up 18. Bio-

Isolates closed 10 up at 43p,

after 48p, in the wake of the

underwritten rights issue.

Pilkington weak

Publicity given to the group's

escalating redundancies which

fell away to close 15 down at 200p;

after 200p, but Pilkington rose

5 to 227p after comment on the

interim results. Fisons, on the

other hand, jumped 13 to 378p,

with demand stimulated by pub-

licity given to a broker's favour-

able circular. Glaxo also resisted

the trend and moved 1/2 fresh

to a new 1985 peak of 131p.

Secondary issues had Skelchey

leaving at 355p following the

satisfactory annual profits and

accompanying optimistic state-

ment. Brook Street Bureau

warning, rallied 10 to 87p.

Leading Properties were

neglected, but secondary issues

displayed several firm

counters. News that Prudential

fresh support ahead of the annual

results expected shortly and

gained 6 to 134p, while USM-

quoted Tops Estates moved up

7 more to 100p in a restricted

market. News that Prudential

had entered the estate agency

business enlivened interest in

other estate agents, Connells ris-

ing 5 to 125p, Barstow Eves-

16p and Mann and Mann, up

both added 2.

Common Brothers - quoted

at 58p at the start of the current

trading account - were sus-

pended at 32p at the outset pend-

ing details of a financial

reconstruction.

Investment managers Henderson

and Partners provided an

outstanding firm feature, rising

90 to 825p following the 43 per

cent expansion in full-year pro-

fits. Elsewhere in Financials,

Exco International, dull of late,

rallied 15 to 635p, while stock-

jobbers Smith Brothers hardened

low price to a new high of

130p.

Oils firmer

The Oil sector staged a minor

rally after the recent shake-out

prompted by worries over inter-

national oil price cuts. Quota-

tions were marked higher at the

outset and in most cases managed

to hold their levels helped

by the decline in discounting.

Shell, up 13 at 703p, while

petroleum products were again

firmly supported by U.S. sup-

port and news of an additional

oil discovery in Block 6407-9 in

the North Sea. British oil

attracted good demand to end

the day 5 firmer at 230p. Else-

where, Sun (UK) Royalty rallied

15 to 210p.

Among generally subdued

Plantations, Rowe Evans invest-

ments hardened a couple of

pence to 77p in reply to the

near-doubled preliminary pro-

fits. Applied Botanicals, the

troubled houseplants concern

currently in receipt of an offer

for £1.25 a share, a fraction

further to 11p on the disclosure

that publication of the 1984

accounts will be delayed until

August.

Australians lower

The Australian Government's

proposals to tax earnings on

gold mining from 1986 con-

tinued to weigh heavily on

down-under mining markets

which came under pressure

from the tenth successive trad-

ing session. Selling in Sydney

and Melbourne markets overnight

continued unabated and followed

through into London at the out-

set of trading. Golds were again

highly vulnerable and showed

further substantial falls but

pressure on the leading trad-

ing issues eased off towards

the close of trading when the

Australian dollar improved against

Dornfontein settled 1 lower at

£131. In the cheaper priced

issues, Grovetree posted a 32 fall

at 591p. Elderslie gave up 16

to 675p and Beatrice dipped 15 to

338p.

Platinum were depressed

along with Golds but UK Finan-

cialists rallied well after an uncer-

tain opening. Initially easier at

575p Rio Tinto-Zinc picked up

to close a net 9 to the good at

590p.

Although reduced from the

active levels seen on Tuesday,

business transacted in Traded

Options yesterday still produced

a respectable 8,364 contracts.

Hanson Trust were again active

with 458 calls and 673 puts

done, while Jaguar attracted 742

calls. Shell Transport were

lively with 241 calls and 277

puts struck, while put operators

also displayed interest in RTZ

which contributed 473 trades.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1985

NEW HIGHS (116)

IN BRITISH FUNDS (1)

IN AMERICAN FUNDS (1)

IN EUROPEAN FUNDS (1)

IN JAPANESE FUNDS (1)

IN AUSTRALIAN FUNDS (1)

IN NEW ZEALAND FUNDS (1)

IN SOUTH AFRICAN FUNDS (1)

IN CANADIAN FUNDS (1)

IN HONG KONG FUNDS (1)

IN TAIWAN FUNDS (1)

IN SINGAPORE FUNDS (1)

IN MALAYSIA FUNDS (1)

IN THAILAND FUNDS (1)

IN PHILIPPINE FUNDS (1)

Special Times Thursday June 6 1985

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in francs or centimes.
 On latest annual reports of 1925. Estimated percentages shown in round and covers are based on latest annual reports of 1925. Estimated percentages shown in round and covers are based on latest annual reports of 1925.
 Yearly figures. Prices are calculated on 100 per share basis, earnings per share on 100 per share basis. Dividends are calculated on 100 per share basis. Dividends are calculated on 100 per share basis.
 Applicable: bracketed figures indicate 100 per share or more advance or decrease from 1924 to 1925. Brackets indicate 100 per share or more advance or decrease from 1924 to 1925.
 Indicated on "B" distribution. Covers are based on "minimum" distribution. Indicated on "B" distribution. Covers are based on "minimum" distribution.
 This company is not a dividend payer. In brief, after taxation, exclusive of exceptional profits/losses but including estimated market of substantial A/CY. Yields are based on 100 per share basis. Estimated percentages shown in round and covers are based on latest annual reports of 1925.
 A/CY Yields are based on 100 per share basis. Estimated percentages shown in round and covers are based on latest annual reports of 1925.

How to Use: State of dividend declared and rights.

1. Dividend: Yields shown that have been advertised to allow for 100 per share for each.

2. Interest: Yields increased or estimated.

3. Interest: Yields increased, estimated or deferred.

4. Tax-free: No dividends on application.

5. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

6. Net: Net of 100 per share basis; earnings estimated under Rule 1555(4)(a).

7. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

8. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

9. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

10. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

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59. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

60. Dividend: Yields increased or estimated.

REGIONAL & IRISH STOCKS

The following is a selection of regional and Irish stocks, the latter being in pence.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Albany Ind. 210 | 180 | API Ind. | 375 |
| Cray & Ryce 110 | 100 | Cornwall | 42 |
| De La Rue 110 | 100 | De La Rue | 42 |
| Higgins Bros 220 | 220 | Higgins Bros | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
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| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | Irish Ind. | 53 |
| Irish Ind. 110 | 110 | | |

UK ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY—Indices of industrial production, manufacturing output (1980=100); engineering orders (1980=100); retail sales volume (1978=100); retail sales value (1980=100); registered unemployment (excluding school leavers) and unfilled vacancies (000s). All seasonally adjusted.

| | Ind. prod. | Eng. output | Retail sales vol. | Retail sales value | Unem. employed | Vacs. |
|----------|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1984 | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 104.0 | 99.0 | 103 | 107.7 | 2,998 | 147.0 |
| 2nd qtr. | 102.0 | 99.9 | 107 | 110.2 | 3,025 | 154.0 |
| 3rd qtr. | 102.4 | 101.4 | 107 | 111.1 | 3,076 | 161.0 |
| 4th qtr. | 103.3 | 101.0 | 105 | 113.6 | 3,103 | 166.5 |
| October | 102.9 | 100.3 | 107 | 112.0 | 3,100 | 170.5 |
| November | 103.2 | 101.0 | 104 | 112.7 | 3,102 | 167.6 |
| December | 103.7 | 101.6 | 104 | 115.6 | 3,106 | 161.3 |

| | Consumer goods | Invest. goods | Intmd. goods | Eng. output | Metal mfg. | Textile mfg. | Hous. starts |
|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1984 | | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 105.5 | 101.8 | 112.6 | 112.6 | 133.9 | 3,138 | 157.5 |
| 2nd qtr. | 104.6 | 100.3 | 101 | 111.6 | 124.4 | 3,124 | 157.2 |
| 3rd qtr. | 105.0 | 101.8 | 107 | 112.0 | 136.2 | 3,144 | 156.1 |
| 4th qtr. | 107.0 | 103.2 | 113.8 | 116.5 | 140.3 | 3,176 | 166.7 |
| October | 107.0 | 103.2 | 113.8 | 116.5 | 140.3 | 3,176 | 166.7 |
| November | 107.0 | 103.2 | 113.8 | 116.5 | 140.3 | 3,176 | 166.7 |
| December | 107.0 | 103.2 | 113.8 | 116.5 | 140.3 | 3,176 | 166.7 |

OUTPUT—By market sector: consumer goods, investment goods, intermediate goods (materials and fuels); engineering output, metal manufacture, textiles, leather and clothing (1980=100); housing starts (000s, monthly average).

| | Consumer goods | Invest. goods | Intmd. goods | Eng. output | Metal mfg. | Textile mfg. | Hous. starts |
|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1984 | | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 100.1 | 93.9 | 110.5 | 96.2 | 113.5 | 95.9 | 16.2 |
| 2nd qtr. | 101.4 | 95.7 | 105.3 | 97.9 | 106.0 | 97.2 | 18.0 |
| 3rd qtr. | 101.2 | 98.2 | 104.5 | 100.9 | 108.2 | 97.8 | 16.2 |
| 4th qtr. | 102.0 | 97.5 | 106.5 | 99.4 | 107.0 | 97.3 | 13.3 |
| October | 102.0 | 97.0 | 106.0 | 99.0 | 106.0 | 96.0 | 16.5 |
| November | 102.0 | 97.0 | 106.0 | 99.0 | 106.0 | 96.0 | 13.9 |
| December | 102.0 | 97.0 | 106.0 | 99.0 | 106.0 | 96.0 | 9.5 |

EXTERNAL TRADE—Indices of export and import volume (1980=100); viable balance, current balance (£m); oil balance (£m); terms of trade (1980=100); excluding reserves.

| | Export volume | Import volume | Visible current | Oil balance | Terms of trade | Resv. balance |
|----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1984 | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 106.7 | 112.1 | -57 | +623 | +2,322 | 97.3 |
| 2nd qtr. | 107.2 | 117.1 | -100 | +592 | +1,541 | 96.9 |
| 3rd qtr. | 108.0 | 118.8 | -106 | +621 | +1,504 | 96.7 |
| 4th qtr. | 117.5 | 128.1 | -107 | +641 | +1,468 | 96.1 |
| October | 118.0 | 128.8 | -110 | +633 | +1,452 | 95.9 |
| November | 118.2 | 128.2 | -110 | +633 | +1,452 | 95.9 |
| December | 118.2 | 128.2 | -110 | +633 | +1,452 | 95.9 |

FINANCIAL—Money supply M0, M1 and sterling M3, bank advances in sterling to the private sector (three months growth at annual rate); building societies' net inflow; new credit; all seasonally adjusted. Clearing Bank base rate (per cent).

| | M0 | M1 | M3 | Advances | Net inflow | New credit | Base rate |
|----------|------|------|------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1984 | | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 4.1 | 10.1 | 8.2 | 13.6 | 2,609 | 2,868 | 8.50 |
| 2nd qtr. | 4.6 | 24.5 | 11.1 | 18.9 | 1,795 | 2,870 | 9.25 |
| 3rd qtr. | 5.3 | 10.2 | 6.3 | 9.9 | 1,628 | 2,809 | 10.50 |
| 4th qtr. | 9.5 | 24.3 | 13.4 | 16.9 | 2,492 | 2,941 | 9.63 |
| October | 9.9 | 27.3 | 18.6 | 17.1 | 2,463 | 2,967 | 9.63 |
| November | 12.3 | 27.2 | 12.1 | 22.4 | 1,004 | 971 | 9.63 |
| December | 12.3 | 27.2 | 12.1 | 22.4 | 1,004 | 971 | 9.63 |

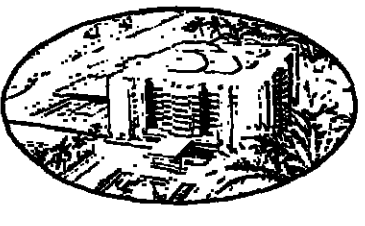
INFLATION—Indices of earnings (Jan 1980=100); basic materials and fuels, wholesale prices of manufactured products (1980=100); retail prices and food prices (1974=100); FT commodity index (July 1952=100); trade weighted value of sterling (1975=100).

| | Earnings | Basic materials | Wholesale mfg. | RPI | Foodstuffs | Comdty. Strig. |
|----------|----------|-----------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| 1984 | | | | | | |
| 1st qtr. | 153.6 | 133.6 | 129.0 | 343.9 | 321.7 | 308.67 |
| 2nd qtr. | 158.9 | 134.3 | 132.0 | 350.9 | 329.1 | 305.06 |
| 3rd qtr. | 159.6 | 134.1 | 132.2 | 353.9 | 326.8 | 288.95 |
| 4th qtr. | 164.1 | 140.1 | 134.3 | 358.2 | 326.8 | 289.64 |
| October | 164.2 | 139.9 | 134.3 | 357.7 | 326.2 | 289.64 |
| November | 162.8 | 139.2 | 134.3 | 358.8 | 326.6 | 289.64 |
| December | 165.3 | 143.4 | 134.9 | 358.5 | 327.6 | 289.64 |

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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OVER-THE-COUNTER

Continued from Page 38

| Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last | Chng | DNA PI | 30 | 60 | 90 | 180 | 360 |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|----|----|--------|--------|-------|
| DBA | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 302 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBP | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 320 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBI | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 340 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBJ | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 360 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBK | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 380 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBL | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 400 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBM | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 420 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBN | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 440 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBO | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 460 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBP | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 480 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBI | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 500 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBJ | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 520 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBK | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 540 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBL | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 560 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBM | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 580 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBN | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 600 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBO | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 620 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBP | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 640 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBI | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 660 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBJ | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 680 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBK | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 700 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBL | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 720 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBM | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 740 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBN | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 760 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBO | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 780 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBP | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 800 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBI | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 820 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBJ | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 840 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBK | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 860 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBL | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 880 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBM | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 900 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBN | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 920 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBO | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 940 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBP | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 960 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBI | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 980 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |
| DBJ | 37 | 15 1/2 | 15 1/4 | 15 1/4 | + 1/4 | 1000 | 34 | 0 | 18 1/2 | 18 1/2 | + 1/4 |

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Wheat sale to Algeria ignites European fury

BY IVO DAWNAY IN BRUSSELS AND NANCY DUNNE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S PROPOSED million-tonne wheat sale to Algeria, the first deal under Washington's \$2bn agricultural export initiative, provoked widely differing reactions on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday.

July wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade edged 3 cents higher to \$3.21 a bushel early yesterday in the wake of Tuesday's announcement by Mr John Block, the U.S. Agriculture Secretary, while European cereals interests expressed their fury and the European Commission in Brussels closed itself away to study the plan.

The hastily-arranged deal, which was forced on the Reagan administration by U.S. farm state senators following the European Community's failure to set a date for a new round of multilateral trade talks, is widely regarded as the first shot in an agricultural trade war.

Likely to be the first of many such subsidised sales to counter the fall in U.S. farm exports, it is bound to be the principal topic in discussions Mr Block will have with EEC officials during his European tour, which started yesterday.

The first reaction among U.S. traders yesterday was one of relief. "The market had worried itself sick that huge quantities of grain would be dumped from Government stocks," said one analyst. Although operational

U.S. stocks of distillate fuel oil up 4m barrels

By Our Commodities Staff

U.S. STOCKS of distillate fuel oil jumped by more than 4m barrels last week to 104.6m barrels, more than 4.7m barrels above the level at this time last year, according to the American Petroleum Institute (API).

Stocks of crude oil declined by 1.8m barrels to 355.6m barrels. Crude stocks now stand more than 5.2m barrels below the same week in 1984.

Residual fuel oil stocks moved up marginally during the week to 43.1m barrels, almost 5m below last year at this time. Petrol stocks rose to 21.5m barrels but continued to lag far behind last year's levels, when the API reported 352.1m barrels.

Crude oil imports last week were about 3.6m barrels which added to the 2.6m barrels of product imports ran well ahead of the 5.6m barrels combined total recorded in the corresponding week of 1984.

Nicaragua tries incentives to boost coffee

By Tim Coone in Managua

PRIVATE coffee farmers in Nicaragua are to receive foreign exchange incentives for the coming harvest, Sr Jaime Wheelock, the Minister of Agriculture, announced that the country's estimated 16,000 coffee growers are to be included in a dollar incentive scheme for the 1985-86 harvest, although precise details of the scheme have still to be released.

Incentives of up to \$11 per head of cattle were introduced last year for cattle producers, to stem the flow of cattle smuggling across the border in search of better prices and to increase the number of cattle sold to the government-owned export slaughter houses.

Last month, the country's approximately 600 private cotton farmers were told that they were also to receive dollar incentives

THE CRITICS of international commodity agreements (ICAs) have had their doubts fuelled this week from an unexpected source—the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) under whose tutelage most of the existing agreements have been begun.

In a remarkably candid study of 10 agreements covering seven commodities the Unctad secretariat finds that they have had mixed success in stabilising prices in the short term and have done little or nothing to meet the longer term objectives of improving the export earnings and the competitive capacity of developing countries.

The study was prepared for a special session of Unctad's commodities committee which will be the participation of top executives from most of the commodity organisations has been meeting in Geneva this week to assess the role of the ICAs.

Price stability. These agreements or arrangements are negotiated by governments, or by organisations representing the governments, of both producing and consuming countries. They are intended to impart some degree of stability to the prices and earnings potential of commodities.

Since the early 1930s more than 40 ICAs have been negotiated, 25 of them covering three commodities—tin, wheat, and sugar. Their objectives were formalised in 1976 in Unctad's Integrated Programme for Com-

William Dullforce on efforts to stabilise world markets

U.S. attitude crucial to commodity pacts

modities (IPC).

So far they have been limited essentially to trying to keep prices within given ranges over the short term. The instruments used have been mainly buffer stocks and export quotas.

The longer term aims of the IPC, such as checking the tendency for producers to over-invest when prices are high and overcoming the problems that arise when technical innovations or changes in customer preferences prompt falls in demand, have scarcely been approached.

Of the seven commodities examined the Unctad study finds that in tin, wheat, rubber and coffee the agreements have been "relatively successful".

The cocoa and sugar agreements have collapsed, while olive oil is a special case, since the agreement includes no specific mechanism for stabilising prices apart from encouraging consumption and reducing production costs.

The tin agreements, generally regarded as being among the most effective, have succeeded "more in defending the floor price than in defending the ceiling price," the study finds.

The success of the wheat agreements is a matter of history now, dating from the 1950s. Since then the export subsidies of the European Community and the unpredictable import requirements of the Soviet Union have dominated the market and the current pact has no provision for pricing.

The Rubber Agreement's success in defending the floor

price is attributed to the large size of its buffer stock, to its binding financing rules and to the fact that the U.S. is an active member. At a meeting in Geneva last month, however, producers and consumers failed to agree a new price range.

The role played by the U.S. and the role played by a major producer, Brazil, are singled out as factors in the coffee agreement's success in stabilising prices.

A crucial problem, however, is the attitude of the U.S., whose scepticism towards ICAs was voiced again this week in the commodities committee when Ms Joan Plaisted, the U.S. representative, complained that the Unctad study did not address the proposition that long-term government intervention "carries with it the risk of complicating or exacerbating problems rather than resolving them."

Common fund. An unresolved issue critical for the future of Unctad and the ICAs concerns the Common Fund for Commodities originally negotiated in 1980. The fund would have a capital of \$470m, most of which would go to buffer stocks.

It would also have government-guaranteed borrowing capacity. A further amount, \$255m, in voluntary contributions has

been pledged to finance the longer term development initiatives of the ICAs, such as those embodied in the more recently negotiated tin and tropical timber agreements.

So far 87 countries contributing roughly half the capital have ratified the agreement establishing the fund. For it to become operational 90 ratifications representing two-thirds of the capital are required.

Unctad at present is in a chicken and egg situation. Governments, most notably the U.S., have doubts about the organisation and its capacity to promote effective ICAs; the Unctad secretariat, however, believes that to be effective, the ICAs need firmer commitments from governments.

Although the U.S. attack on Unctad last year now appears to have diminished in intensity, the secretariat is very much aware of the basic imbalance in the attitude of the Reagan administration to Unctad.

It would need something close to a miracle to change the situation. If the appointment of a new secretary general this autumn coincided with the ratification of the common fund, there would be a good chance to improve the performance of and arouse more enthusiasm for, the commodity agreements. The odds are against that, however, as against the ingenuity apart from encouraging coincidence occurring.

Mr Alister McIntyre, acting secretary general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Firm commitments by the governments of all the principal producers and consumers are crucial to the success of an agreement, the Unctad study underlines. The absence of the U.S., the biggest consumer, and



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U.S. sugar price cut urged

Latin American cane producers should lobby for a reduction in the U.S. sugar support price, a representative of U.S. industrial sugar consumers told delegates to a meeting here of Gelepac.

Rather than drastically reduce production or fight for an export quota system, a better strategy for suffering Latin sugar growers would be to join forces with U.S. industrialists and trade officials who say U.S. sugar

prices are indefensibly high. Mr Linwood, Tipton chairman of the U.S. Sugar Users Group, advised a Gelepac conference. The U.S. support price is now 22 cents per pound as opposed to the 3 cents a pound of sugar fetches internationally. Lowering the support price inevitably would knock the least efficient U.S. cane producers and beet producers out of the market, clearing the way for an increase in imports from Latin America, Mr Tipton said.

Record zinc consumption predicted

BY ANDREW GOWERS

ZINC PRODUCERS were urged yesterday to devote more funds to research, development and marketing, as the world's economic activity set to continue rising — albeit at a slower pace — for the next 12 to 18 months, MMRs believes consumption will continue to rise, and will probably pass its previous 1973 record of 4.83m tonnes before the end of 1986.

The study says the immediate prospects for zinc consumption are better than at any time during the past 15 years, when economic activity set to continue rising — albeit at a slower pace — for the next 12 to 18 months, MMRs believes consumption will continue to rise, and will probably pass its previous 1973 record of 4.83m tonnes before the end of 1986.

As little new mine development is proceeding at present, a 12-month zinc shortage in the next year or so. In any case, MMRs is confident that prices will firm later this year, following a likely dip in the summer months.

Its optimism is in marked contrast to the views of another

analyst, Shearson Lehman Brothers, which said last month that consumption, measured on a 12-month average, had been falling for about nine months, and that last year's market deficit may be eliminated altogether in 1985.

The post-recession prospects for zinc; \$6,000 from Metals and Minerals Research Services, 225-230 Strand, London WC2.

Potato board calls halt to inspections

THE UK Potato Marketing Board has decided to terminate its contract to inspect potatoes delivered on the London potato futures market from May 1986. The move is believed to have come in response to persistent complaints from the trade about the Board's adjudications. The Board originally wanted to stop inspecting potatoes this year, but was persuaded to stay on by the London Potato Futures Association.

LONDON MARKETS

BASE METALS

LME prices supplied by Amalgamated Metal Trading

ALUMINIUM

| | Official | High/Low |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Cash | 848.5-850.0 | 848.5-850.0 |
| 3 months | 865.0-866.0 | 865.0-866.0 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 848.5 (848.5-850.0), three months 865.0 (865.0-866.0), settlement 848.5 (848.5-850.0), turnover: 26,500 tonnes. | | |

COPPER

| | Official | High/Low |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Cash | 1143.5-1145.0 | 1143.5-1145.0 |
| 3 months | 1155.0-1156.0 | 1155.0-1156.0 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 1143.5 (1143.5-1145.0), three months 1155.0 (1155.0-1156.0), settlement 1143.5 (1143.5-1145.0), turnover: 27,200 tonnes. | | |

LEAD

| | Official | High/Low |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Cash | 1030.5-1031.0 | 1030.5-1031.0 |
| 3 months | 1045.0-1046.0 | 1045.0-1046.0 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 1030.5 (1030.5-1031.0), three months 1045.0 (1045.0-1046.0), settlement 1030.5 (1030.5-1031.0), turnover: 4,200 tonnes. | | |

NICKEL

| | Official | High/Low |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash | 10430.0-10435.0 | 10430.0-10435.0 |
| 3 months | 10530.0-10535.0 | 10530.0-10535.0 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 10430.0 (10430.0-10435.0), three months 10530.0 (10530.0-10535.0), settlement 10430.0 (10430.0-10435.0), turnover: 1,200 tonnes. | | |

TIN

| | Official | High/Low |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Cash | 5950.0-5955.0 | 5950.0-5955.0 |
| 3 months | 6050.0-6055.0 | 6050.0-6055.0 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 5950.0 (5950.0-5955.0), three months 6050.0 (6050.0-6055.0), settlement 5950.0 (5950.0-5955.0), turnover: 2,100 tonnes. | | |

ZINC

| | Official | High/Low |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Cash | 605.0-605.5 | 605.0-605.5 |
| 3 months | 615.0-615.5 | 615.0-615.5 |
| Official closing (am): Cash 605.0 (605.0-605.5), three months 615.0 (615.0-615.5), settlement 605.0 (605.0-605.5), turnover: 1,100 tonnes. | | |

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

In tonnes unless otherwise stated

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Aluminium | 848.5-850.0 | 848.5-850.0 |
| Copper | 1143.5-1145.0 | 1143.5-1145.0 |
| Lead | 1030.5-1031.0 | 1030.5-1031.0 |
| Nickel | 10430.0-10435.0 | 10430.0-10435.0 |
| Tin | 5950.0-5955.0 | 5950.0-5955.0 |
| Zinc | 605.0-605.5 | 605.0-605.5 |

GOLD

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|------|---------------|---------------|
| Gold | 314.5-315.0 | 314.5-315.0 |
| Gold | 314.5-315.0 | 314.5-315.0 |
| Gold | 314.5-315.0 | 314.5-315.0 |

SILVER

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|--------|---------------|---------------|
| Silver | 10.43-10.44 | 10.43-10.44 |
| Silver | 10.43-10.44 | 10.43-10.44 |
| Silver | 10.43-10.44 | 10.43-10.44 |

PLATINUM

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Platinum | 1043.5-1045.0 | 1043.5-1045.0 |
| Platinum | 1043.5-1045.0 | 1043.5-1045.0 |
| Platinum | 1043.5-1045.0 | 1043.5-1045.0 |

RUBBER

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|--------|---------------|---------------|
| Rubber | 1.043-1.044 | 1.043-1.044 |
| Rubber | 1.043-1.044 | 1.043-1.044 |
| Rubber | 1.043-1.044 | 1.043-1.044 |

COFFEE

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|--------|---------------|---------------|
| Coffee | 2.041-2.042 | 2.041-2.042 |
| Coffee | 2.041-2.042 | 2.041-2.042 |
| Coffee | 2.041-2.042 | 2.041-2.042 |

FREIGHT FUTURES

| | June 5 + or - | June 4 + or - |
|---------|---------------|---------------|
| Freight | 93.0-93.5 | 93.0-93.5 |
| Freight | 93.0-93.5 | 93.0-93.5 |
| Freight | 93.0-93.5 | 93.0-93.5 |

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| FTSE 100 | 281.1 | 279.8 | 277.5 |
| FTSE 200 | 281.1 | 279.8 | 277.5 |
| FTSE 300 | 281.1 | 279.8 | 277.5 |

REUTERS

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| REUTERS | 1776.4 | 1776.6 | 1781.5 |
| REUTERS | 1776.4 | 1776.6 | 1781.5 |
| REUTERS | 1776.4 | 1776.6 | 1781.5 |

MOODY'S

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| MOODY'S | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |
| MOODY'S | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |
| MOODY'S | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |

DOW JONES

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| DOW JONES | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |
| DOW JONES | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |
| DOW JONES | 117.6 | 117.6 | 117.6 |

COCOA

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| COCOA | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| COCOA | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| COCOA | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

SUGAR

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| SUGAR | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| SUGAR | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| SUGAR | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

RUBBER

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| RUBBER | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| RUBBER | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| RUBBER | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

COFFEE

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| COFFEE | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| COFFEE | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| COFFEE | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

OIL

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| OIL | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| OIL | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| OIL | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

SPOT PRICES

| | June 4 | June 3 | June 2 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| SPOT PRICES | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| SPOT PRICES | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |
| SPOT PRICES | 1780.0 | 1780.0 | 1780.0 |

HEATING OIL

CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling falls as dollar rises

Sterling lost 2 cents against the dollar and also declined against other major currencies, but foreign exchange dealing was generally quiet. The major impact of the retreat by the pound was to put back hopes of a cut in UK base rates, but to some extent about by earlier speculation that reasonable mid-May money supply figures would produce lower interest rates. The figures are now widely regarded as not good enough, particularly against a background of the weaker pound.

Oil prices are the other major factor, but a fall in North Sea prices was already largely discounted and the market showed little reaction to news the British National Oil Corporation intends to cut \$1.25 a barrel from its June price for Brent crude. Apart from using 2 cents to DM 3.86 from DM 3.88 and FF 117.60 from FF 118.80, the pound's exchange rate index, as calculated by the Bank of England fell 0.9 to 78.8, the lowest level of the day. It opened at 79.2, and remained between 79.1 and 79.3 until the final figure. The dollar rose steadily but

without any great conviction. In the absence of any new facts, tomorrow's U.S. unemployment figures are regarded as giving another guide to economic growth. Although the U.S. currency showed resistance above a technical support level of around DM 3.04 it also failed to break through another important resistance level of DM 3.0750. Commercial buying at the lower levels helped support the dollar, but dealers are reluctant to take out new positions ahead of tonight's U.S. money supply figures, which may herald another cut in the Federal Reserve discount rate, while the market is also awaiting the flash estimate of second quarter growth.

The pound's exchange rate index, as calculated by the Bank of England fell 0.9 to 78.8, the lowest level of the day. It opened at 79.2, and remained between 79.1 and 79.3 until the final figure. The dollar rose steadily but

national product on June 20. The dollar advanced to DM 3.0720 from DM 3.0540; Sfr 2.5830 from Sfr 2.5500; and ¥249.40 from ¥249.10. On Bank of England figures the dollar index rose to 145.5 from 144.6.

D-MARK — Trading range against the dollar in 1985 is 3.4510 to 2.9780. May average 3.1024. Exchange rate index 181.9 against 180.8 six months ago.

The D-mark weakened against the dollar, and steady demand was seen for the U.S. currency. It rose to DM 3.07 from DM 3.0445 in Frankfurt, and earlier in the day the Bundes-

bank did not intervene when the dollar was fixed at DM 3.0671 compared with DM 3.0432 previously. News of a rise in German unemployment to 2.33m from 2.32m went unnoticed by the market, and a rise of 2.5 per cent in German industrial orders in April also had little impact. As expected the Bundesbank council meeting left the discount and Lombard rates unchanged, but hopes were raised of an easing in interest rates by the minimum level of only 8.5 per cent set for a securities repurchase agreement with the money market.

STERLING INDEX

| | June 5 | Previous |
|----------|--------|----------|
| 8.30 am | 79.2 | 79.9 |
| 9.00 am | 79.2 | 80.0 |
| 10.00 am | 79.2 | 80.0 |
| 11.00 am | 79.3 | 80.0 |
| Noon | 79.1 | 80.0 |
| 1.00 pm | 79.1 | 80.0 |
| 2.00 pm | 79.2 | 79.9 |
| 3.00 pm | 79.1 | 79.8 |
| 4.00 pm | 78.8 | 79.7 |

£ IN NEW YORK

| | June 5 | Prev. close |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 6 spot | 83.865-1.570 | 83.865-1.560 |
| 1 month | 83.870-1.575 | 83.870-1.565 |
| 3 months | 83.875-1.580 | 83.875-1.570 |
| 6 months | 83.880-1.585 | 83.880-1.575 |
| 12 months | 83.885-1.590 | 83.885-1.580 |

Below best

Dollar denominated interest rate contracts finished below their peaks on the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday, but dealers reported the mood remains very bullish amid expectations of a discount in the Federal Reserve's discount rate. Today's U.S. money supply figures are a focal point for an anticipated move by the U.S. central bank, but traders seem prepared to wait until the flash estimate of second quarter GNP on June 20, when it is forecast the rate of growth will confirm that the level of

growth in the first half of 1985 has been well below earlier expectations.

September Eurodollars opened firm at \$2.19 and the move strongly above \$2.00 was regarded as an important barrier for the market. After touching a peak of \$2.23 the price fell back on liquidation of long positions, however, and closed at \$2.17 compared with \$1.98 previously.

LONDON

| | Close | High | Low | Prev |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| June | 92.49 | 92.52 | 92.46 | 92.38 |
| Sept | 92.17 | 92.22 | 92.08 | 92.12 |
| Dec | 91.75 | 91.78 | 91.68 | 91.46 |
| March | 91.34 | 91.34 | 91.26 | 91.07 |
| June | 89.65 | 89.70 | 89.58 | 89.34 |

| | Close | High | Low | Prev |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| June | 123.35 | 123.35 | 123.45 | 123.35 |
| Sept | 123.85 | 123.85 | 123.40 | 123.30 |
| Dec | 124.35 | 124.35 | 123.40 | 123.30 |
| March | 124.85 | 124.85 | 123.40 | 123.30 |
| June | 125.35 | 125.35 | 123.40 | 123.30 |

THREE-MONTH EURODOLLAR

| | Close | High | Low | Prev |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| June | 92.49 | 92.52 | 92.46 | 92.38 |
| Sept | 92.17 | 92.22 | 92.08 | 92.12 |
| Dec | 91.75 | 91.78 | 91.68 | 91.46 |
| March | 91.34 | 91.34 | 91.26 | 91.07 |
| June | 89.65 | 89.70 | 89.58 | 89.34 |

CHICAGO

| | Close | High | Low | Prev |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| June | 92.49 | 92.52 | 92.46 | 92.38 |
| Sept | 92.17 | 92.22 | 92.08 | 92.12 |
| Dec | 91.75 | 91.78 | 91.68 | 91.46 |
| March | 91.34 | 91.34 | 91.26 | 91.07 |
| June | 89.65 | 89.70 | 89.58 | 89.34 |

POUND SPOT—FORWARD AGAINST POUND

| June 5 | Close | One month | % p.a. | Three months | % p.a. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| U.S. | 1.2587-1.2590 | 1.2586-1.2575 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Canada | 1.2587-1.2590 | 1.2587-1.2575 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Netherlands | 4.339-4.340 | 4.339-4.340 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Denmark | 77.76-77.84 | 77.75-77.85 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Belgium | 13.81-13.91 | 13.80-13.87 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Ireland | 12.69-12.74 | 12.67-12.70 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Portugal | 3.857-3.859 | 3.857-3.859 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| France | 218-220 | 218-222 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Spain | 219-221 | 219-220 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Norway | 2.698-2.701 | 2.698-2.701 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Sweden | 11.19-11.21 | 11.19-11.19 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Japan | 11.74-11.89 | 11.74-11.89 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Switzerland | 11.19-11.27 | 11.19-11.19 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Austria | 313-317 | 314-316 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Italy | 27-28 | 27-28 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Greece | 3.24-3.27 | 3.24-3.27 | 0.58-0.59 pm | 1.58-1.59 pm | 4.88 |
| Belgian rate is for convertible franc | | | | | |
| Six-month forward dollar | 2.75-2.70 | | | | |

OVER-THE-COUNTER

| Stock | Sales | High | Low | Last |
|-------|-------|------|-----|------|
|-------|-------|------|-----|------|

[illegible]

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